

REPUBLIC PICTURES  
PRESENTS

# DAREDEVILS OF THE RED CIRCLE



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"HIGH FIDELITY" RECORDING



CERTIFICATE  
NO. 1308



CHARLES QUIGLEY



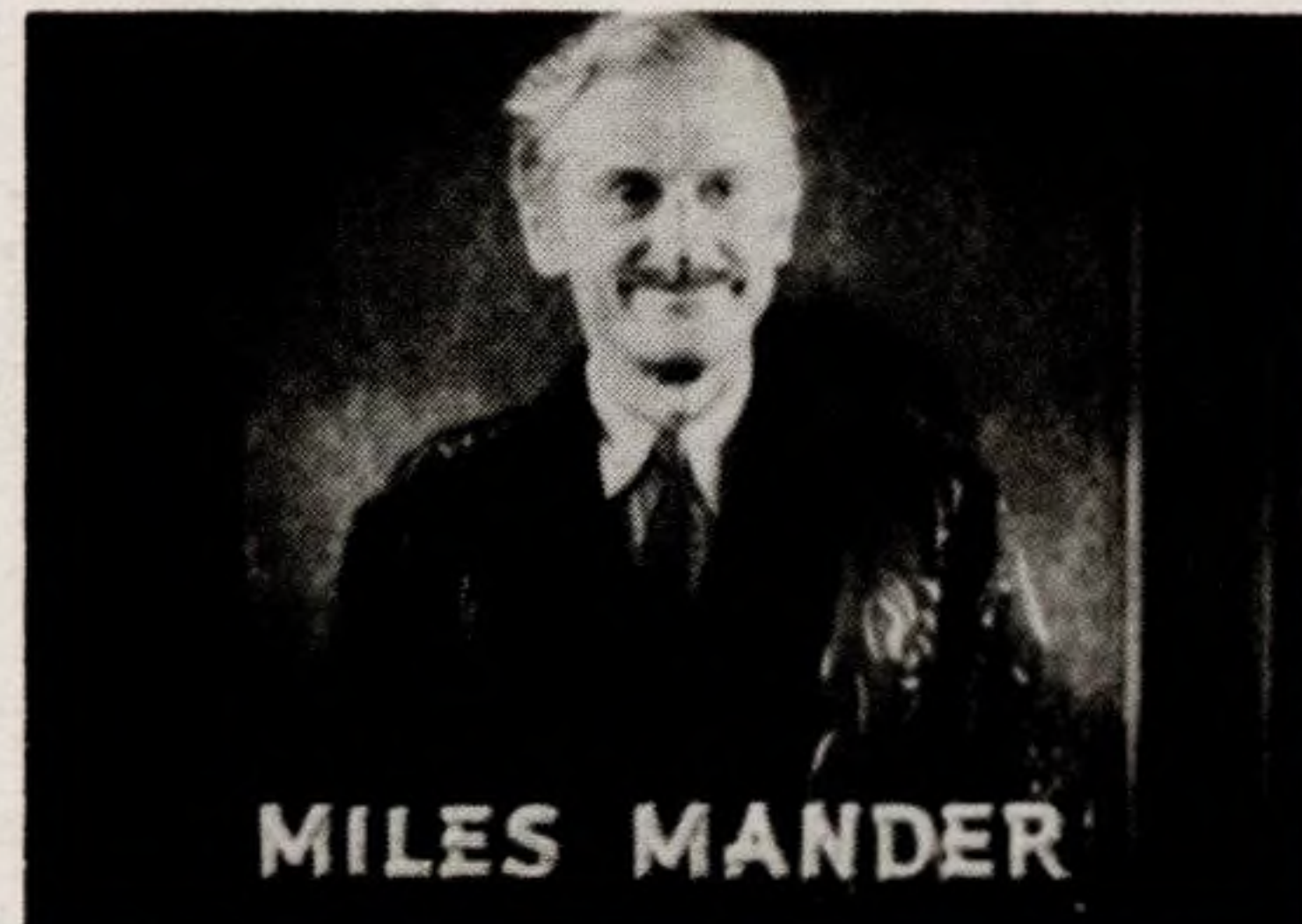
HERMAN BRIX



DAVID SHARPE



CAROLE LANDIS



MILES MANDER



CHARLES MIDDLETON

AND  
C. MONTAGUE SHAW  
BEN TAGGART  
WILLIAM PAGAN  
CORBET MORRIS  
RAYMOND BAILEY  
SNOWFLAKE  
GEORGE CHESEBRO  
RAY MILLER  
ROBERT WINKLER  
TUFFIE

THE CHARACTERS AND EVENTS DEPICTED IN THIS MOTION PICTURE ARE FICTITIOUS.  
ANY SIMILARITY TO ACTUAL PERSONS, LIVING OR DEAD, IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

THREE CIRCUS  
STUNTMEN BATTLE  
A NEFARIOUS  
CRIMINAL!

# DAREDEVILS OF THE RED CIRCLE



A Republic Serial  
in 12 Chapters

CLIFFHANGER  
ENDING

and ESCAPE  
PICTORIAL



## CAST

### FEATURING

Gene Townley.....Charles Quigley  
 Tiny Dawson.....Herman Brix  
 Burt Knowles.....David Sharpe  
 Blanche Granville.....Carole Landis  
 Horace Granville.....Miles Mander  
 Harry Crowel [39013].....Charles Middleton

### WITH

Doctor Malcolm.....C. Montague Shaw  
 Dixon.....Ben Taggart  
 Chief Landon.....William Pagan  
 Klein.....Corbet Morris  
 Stanley.....Raymond Bailey  
 Snowflake.....Snowflake  
 Sheffield.....George Chesebro  
 Jeff.....Ray Miller  
 Sammy Townley.....Robert Winkler  
 Tuffie.....Tuffie

### AND

Police Commissioner.....Ray Largay  
 Hinkle.....Earle Hodgins  
 Marco.....Jerry Jerome  
 Diving Tank Heavy.....Max Marx  
 Police Broadcaster.....Howard Mitchell  
 Doctor.....Reginald Barlow  
 Newscaster.....Norman Nesbitt  
 Pete.....Eddie Parker  
 Frank.....Earl Bunn  
 Chemical Plant Heavy.....Buel Bryant  
 Grocery Truck Driver.....Bud Wolfe  
 Peck.....Harry Strang  
 Al.....Robert Robinson  
 Davis.....John Merton  
 Joe.....Jack Chapin  
 Mac.....Forest Burns  
 Ted.....George Plues  
 Dan.....Frank Wayne  
 Lutens.....Earl Askam  
 Doctor Black.....Bernard Suss  
 District Attorney Graves.....Broderick O'Farrell  
 Burton.....Eddie Cherkose  
 Nurse Benson.....Truda Marson  
 Professor Selden.....Stanley Price  
 Pete.....Walter Merrill  
 Power Plant Heavies.....Joe Yrigoyen,  
 Cy Slocum, Philip Mason  
 Rex.....Bud Geary  
 Sloan.....Arthur Fowler  
 Ward.....Harry Anderson  
 Steve.....Jack Kenney  
 Bob.....Lee Frederick  
 Mine Superintendent.....Roy Barcroft  
 Sam.....Charles Thomas  
 Tom.....Monte Montague  
 Bill.....Roy Brent  
 Ed.....Joe McGuinn  
 Mine Heavies.....Dick Scott, Bob Thom,  
 Curley Dresden, Jack Montgomery  
 Zeke.....Edward Foster  
 Derrick Heavy 1.....George Turner  
 Derrick Heavy 2.....Fred Schaefer  
 Derrick Heavy 3.....William Nestell  
 Control Room Foreman.....Edmund Cobb  
 Blake.....Bert LeBaron  
 Gas Plant Heavies.....Ken Terrell, Bill Wilkus  
 Doctor.....Lloyd Whitlock  
 Others: Al Taylor, George DeNormand,  
 James Fawcett, Ted Mapes, Fenton  
 Taylor, John Meredith.

## FILE NOTES

Republic Serial No. 14—in 12 chapters.  
 Production No. 897

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Classified and Passed by the National Board of Review

Filming started.....March 28, 1939

Filming ended.....April 28, 1939

Total days to film.....32

National Release Date.....June 10, 1939

16mm footage [live].....7,598 feet

Total running time.....211:06

Chapter editing completed dates..[all 1939]

1 [5-9], 2 [5-16], 3 [5-22], 4 [5-31],

5 [6-8], 6 [6-15], 7 [6-22], 8 [6-29],

9 [7-5], 10 [7-11], 11 [7-18], 12 [7-25].

MPPDA Approved Certificates..5205-5210,

5230-5235.

Music credited to.....William Lava

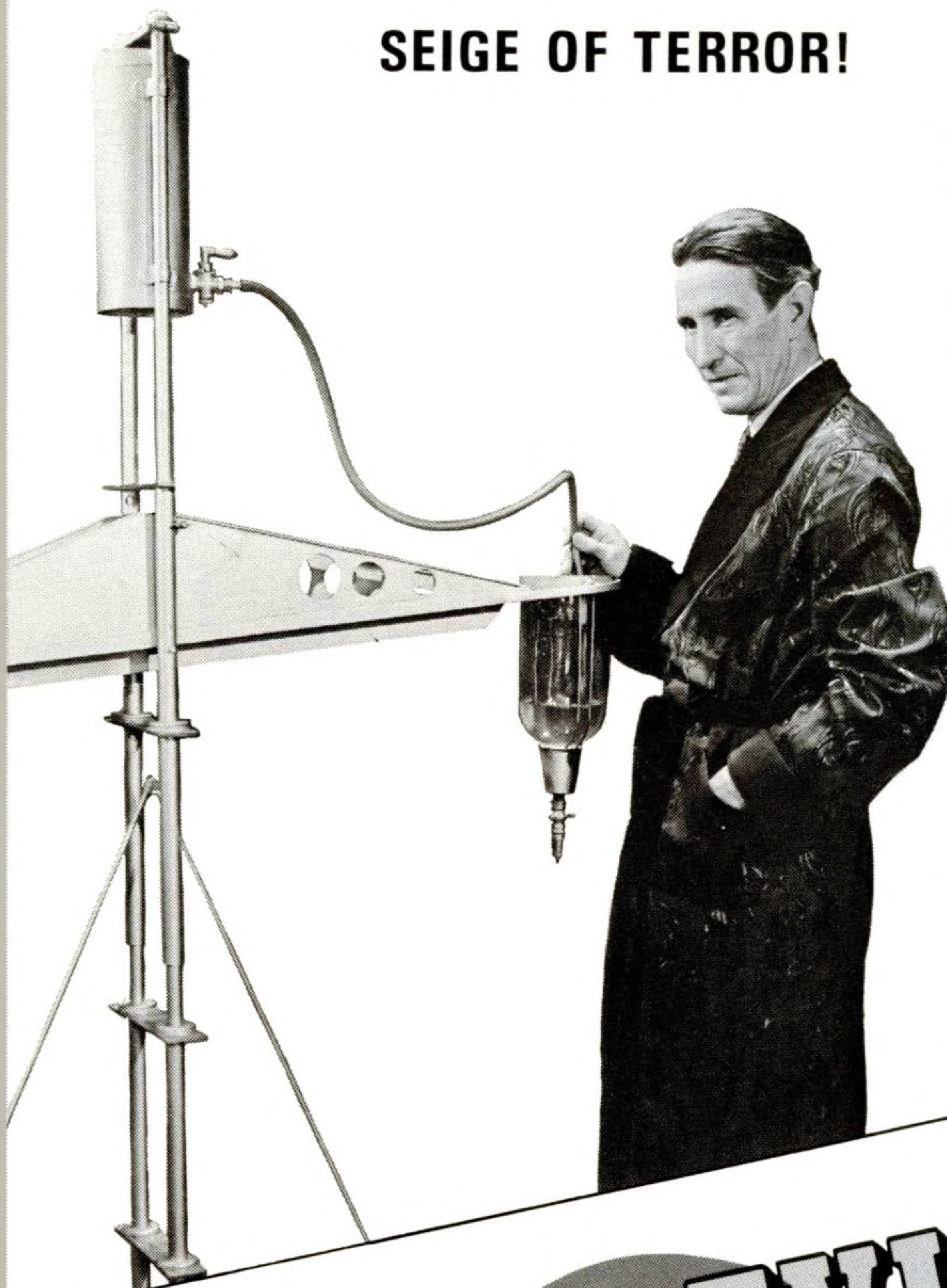
Compositions used, by: William Lava

[14], Cy Feuer [11], Alberto Colombo

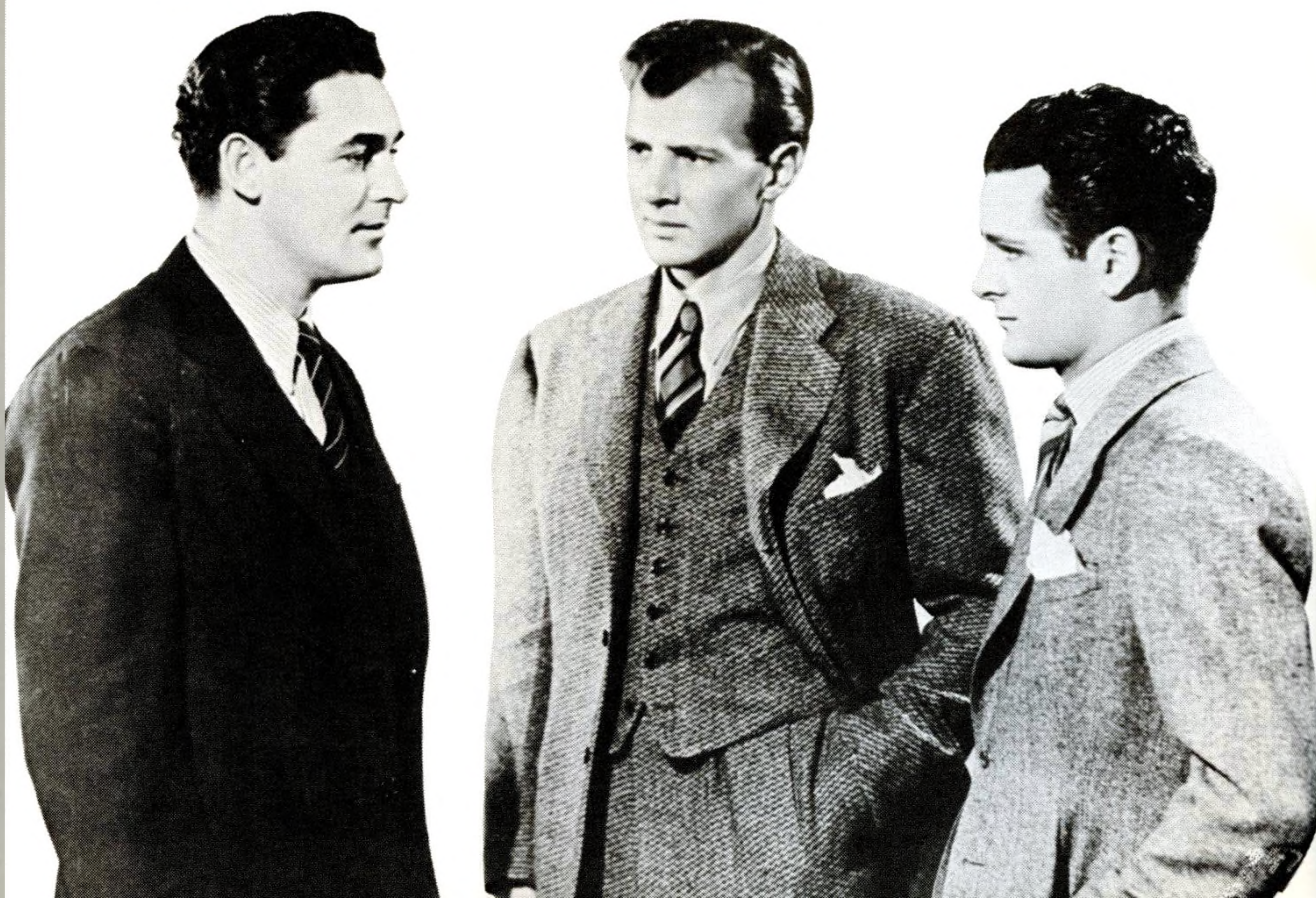
[1], David Tamkin [1], Lava-Feuer [1],

Strauss [1]—arranged by Colombo.

39013 THREATENS AN  
 ENTIRE METROPOLIS  
 IN A REVENGE-FILLED  
 SEIGE OF TERROR!



# DAREDEVILS OF THE RED CIRCLE



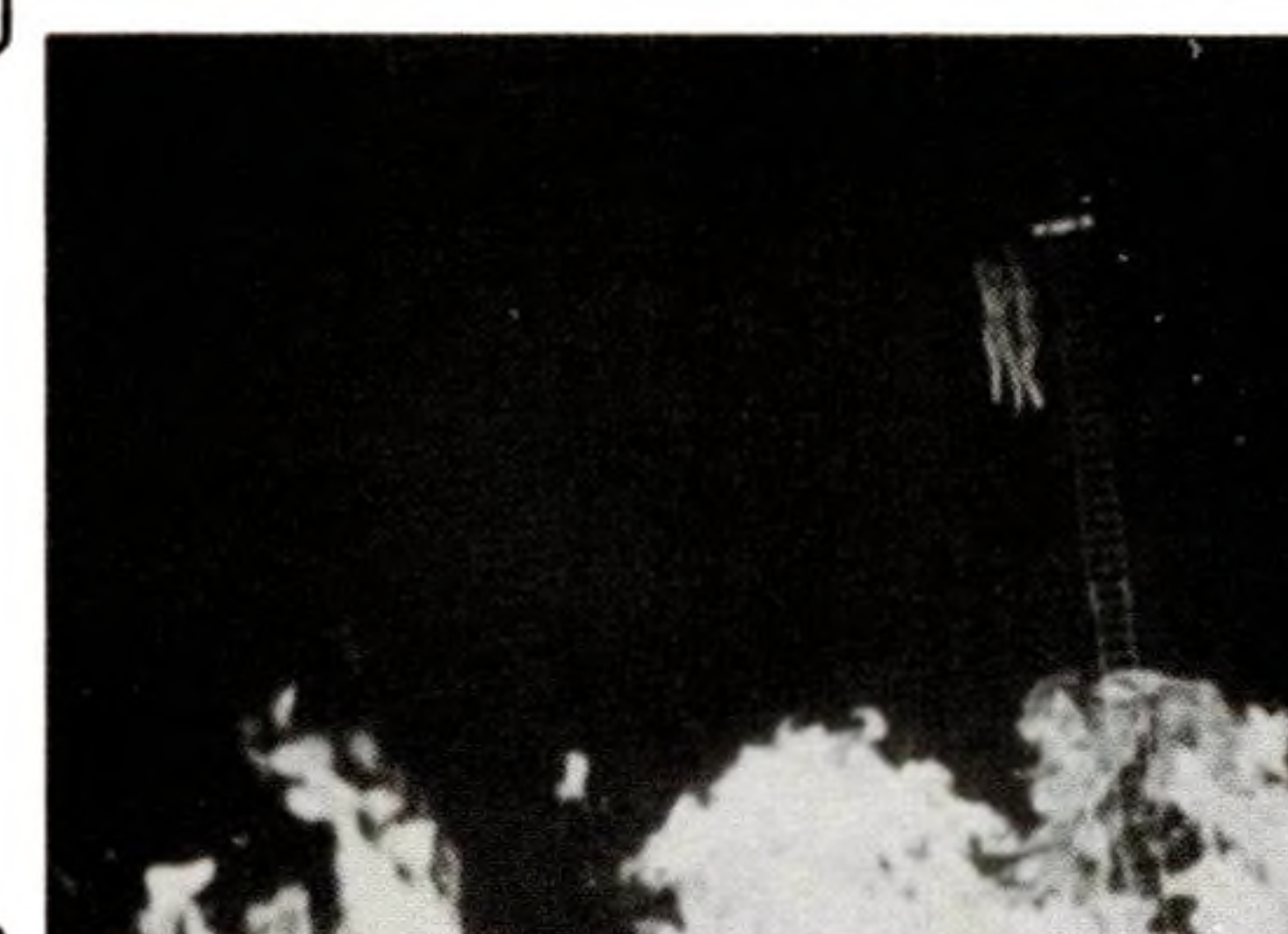
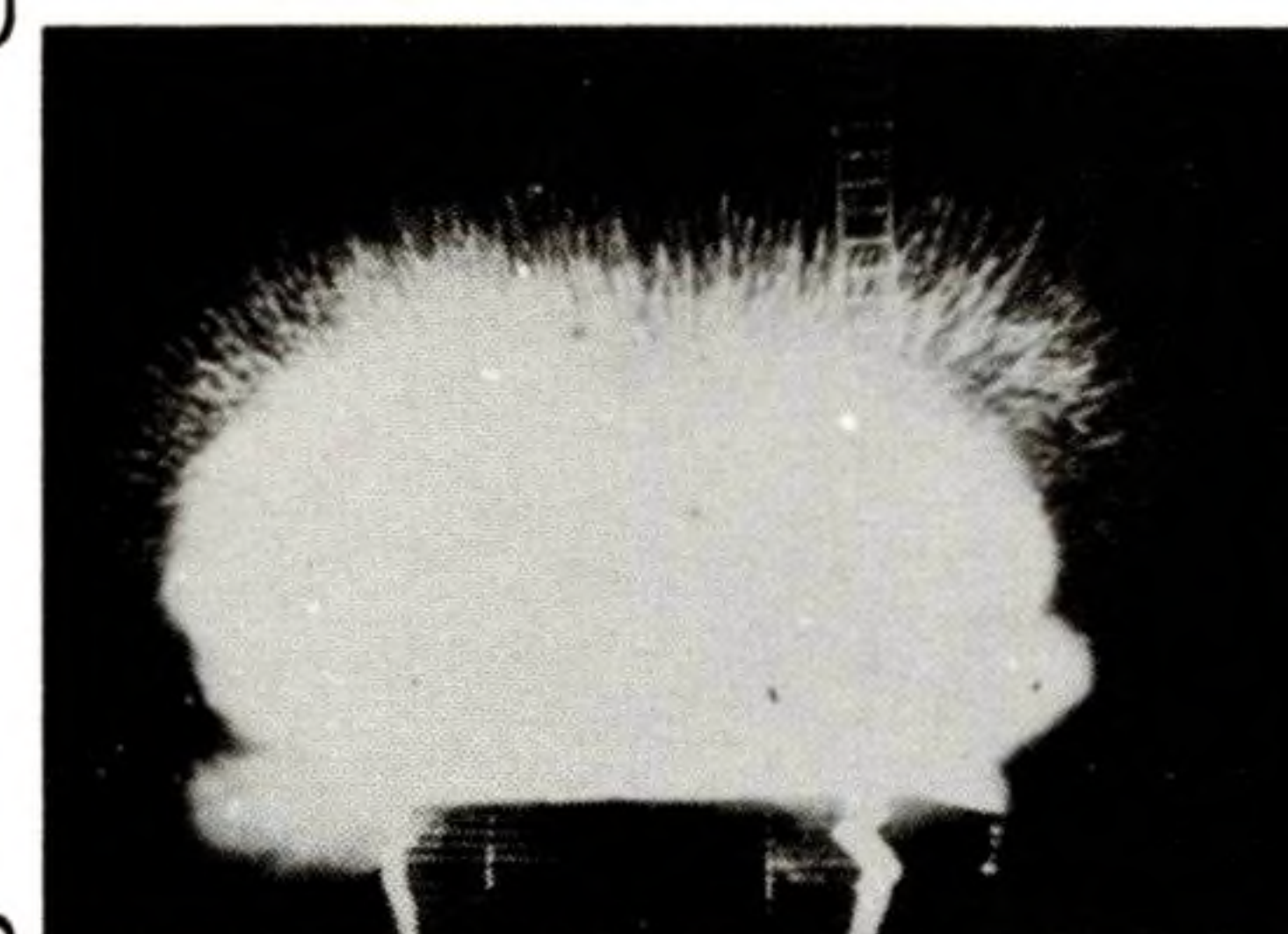


Extremely ingenious by today's standards, DAREDEVILS OF THE RED CIRCLE is nevertheless a refreshingly nostalgic serial that mirrors a more innocent and uncomplicated era. The typically straightforward plot revolves around an escaped convict with a brilliant but twisted mind wreaking all-out revenge against the wealthy industrialist responsible for his imprisonment.

Charles Middleton's supercilious histrionics breathed blood-chilling life into the character of 39013 [pronounced thirty-nine-o-thirteen]. Middleton's performance was matched only by Miles Mander, who superbly essayed the dual role of the benevolent industrialist, Granville, and the malevolent 39013 masquerading as Granville. Worth mentioning technically at this point are the undetectable split screen shots where Mander plays both roles simultaneously and the perfect lap dissolves when Middleton bends behind a makeup table mirror and comes up as Mander, or vice versa. In the non-process sequences, stuntman-actor Al Taylor was used as Mander's photographic double. The naive heroes, a trio of carnival acrobats billed collectively as the Daredevils of the Red Circle, were portrayed by Charles Quigley, Herman Brix [who later underwent a name change to Bruce Bennett] and David Sharpe. One of the most highly-acclaimed Hollywood stuntmen, Sharpe, because of his star billing stature in this chapterplay, had to forego most of the action and was doubled by Jimmy Fawcett. Carole Landis, shortly to become a "name" in motion pictures, played Mander's beauteous granddaughter and the cast was predictably rounded out with the faithful dog, comedic servant and several eyeball-rolling red herrings.

As usual in their serials, Republic put existing outdoor Southern California locations to good use in this film. The open water and floating oil well scenes were photographed at Rincon and Sea Cliff while the Standard Oil Company's producing property in Baldwin Hills was used for yet another segment. Howard Lydecker's colorful miniatures were also much in evidence and many consider the Channel Tunnel cliffhanger which ends Chapter One to be one of his finest efforts. It is certainly an awesome sight as Charles Quigley, perched on a motorcycle in front of a process screen, attempts to outrun the highly convincing, albeit miniature, flood of water cascading inexorably toward him.

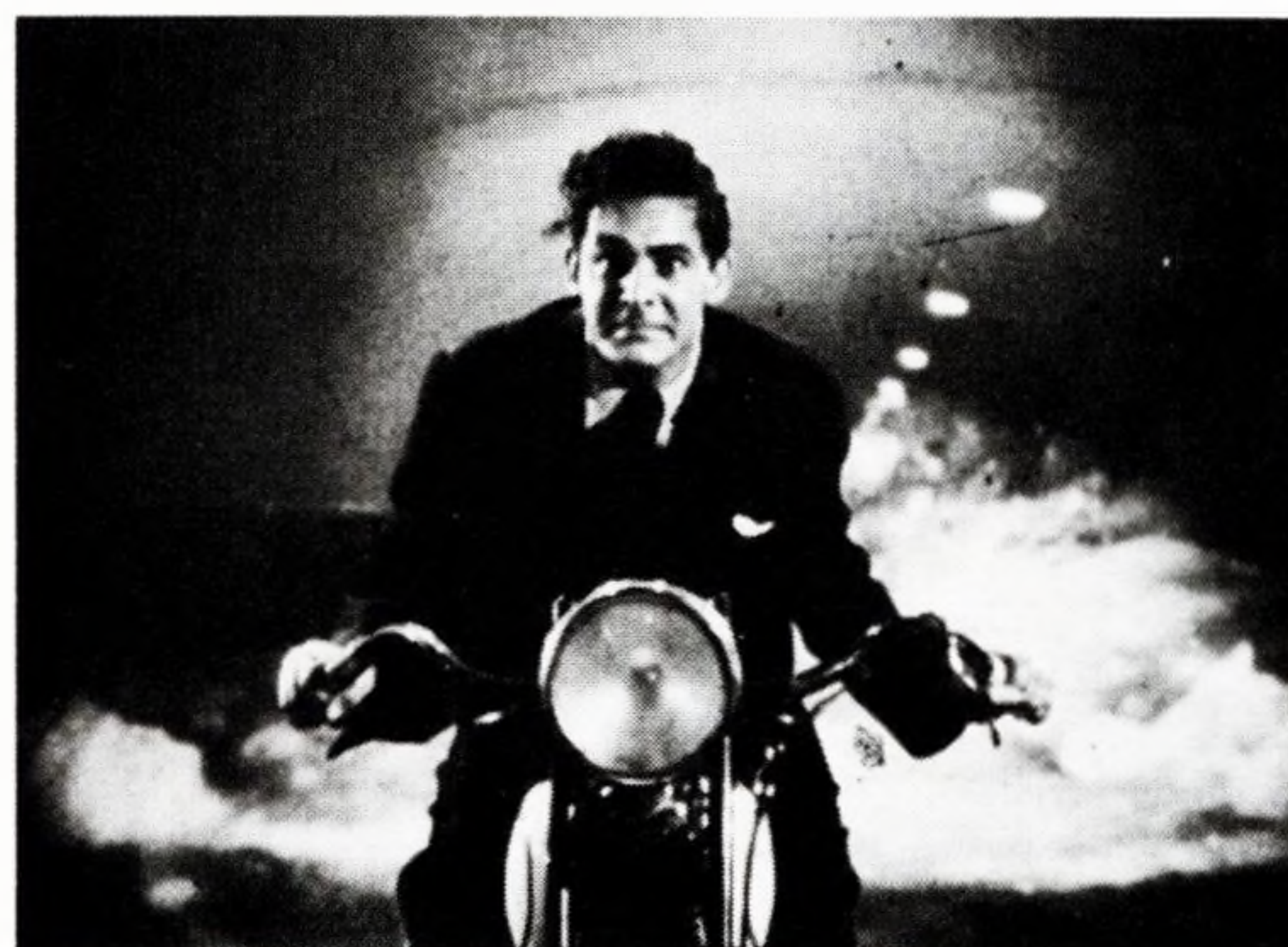
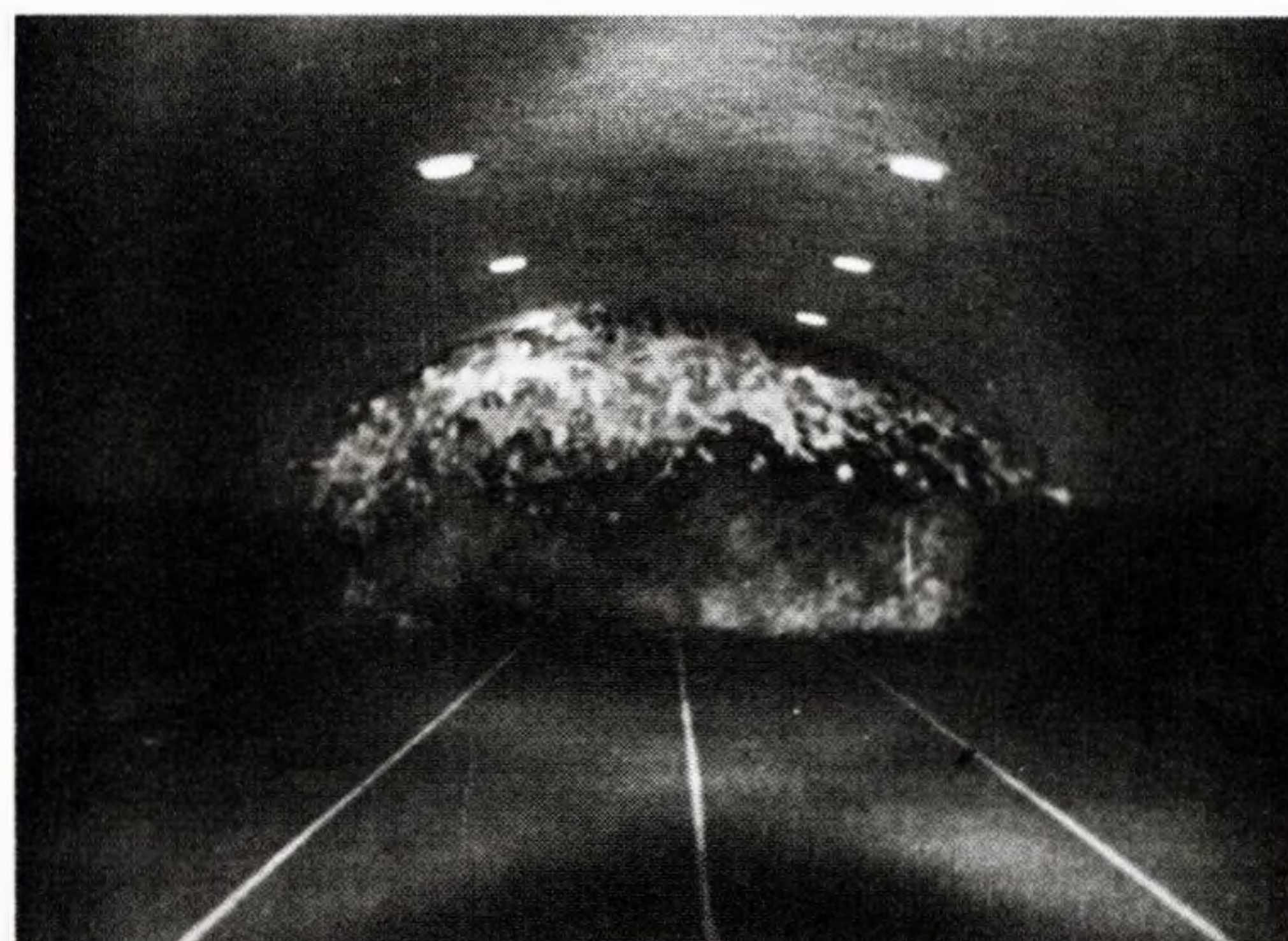
**Production Notes** . . . assistant directors to William Witney and John English were Louis Germonprez, William Strobach and Ed Monfort . . . William Lava composed the main title theme and 13 other selections as well as co-authoring one with Cy Feuer, who penned 11 additional pieces. David Tamkin and Alberto Colombo each provided one composition and the latter also arranged Johann Strauss' ARTISTS' LIFE as background atmosphere for the amusement park sequences in Chapter One . . . the male collie shepherd dog, Tuffie, was owned and trained by Ger Orvedahl . . . for the high-diving acrobatics required in Chapter One, a professional, Charles Soderberg, was hired. Soderberg provided his own sectional ladders, diving tank and life insurance . . . Robert Winkler, playing the role of a boy who is killed in the Chapter One amusement pier fire, was actually injured slightly during filming of this sequence. As the twelve-year-old boy and Carole Landis lay inert on the Stage Six floor separated by a burning prop wall, flames suddenly spurted toward him from some spilled gasoline that had ignited. Johnnie Bourke, Republic's location manager, rushed the frightened lad to a nearby doctor, who prescribed a one-day rest.





While the Police Commissioner and Chief Landon fret over the escape of convict Harry Crowel, who calls himself by his prison number, 39013, and his vengeance-inspired destruction of enterprises owned by Horace Granville, his ex-partner who sent him to prison, the next attack is directed against the Granville Amusement Center. Between performances, Marco and another heavy substitute gasoline into a water tank used by a stunt trio billed as the "Daredevils of the Red Circle". That night, as Hinkle, the barker, spiels and strongman Tiny Dawson, diving champion Gene Townley and escape artist Burt Knowles start their act, 39013 phones Landon with a ten-minute warning. The police broadcaster transmits an alert but Gene has already dropped a lighted flare from the eighty-foot diving ladder and the tank explodes, engulfing the park in flames. Gene's kid brother Sammy is caught in a ring of burning debris and, before the Daredevils can rescue him and Blanche Granville, Sammy is critically injured and a doctor subsequently pronounces him dead. Anxious to repay the stuntmen's bravery, Blanche arranges an interview for them with her grandfather. Granville, the victim of a mysterious stroke, lives in a sterilized section of the house under the care of Doctor Malcolm and a male nurse, Jeff, and confers with visitors over a microphone from behind a glass-partitioned audience room. He has the Daredevils report to Dixon, his manager, then requests Blanche to ride in the first car through the Channel Tunnel as a public confidence-building gesture since 39013 has threatened its destruction. Once alone, Granville moves through a secret passage to a cellar dungeon where, behind bars, sits the real Horace Granville. 39013, having assumed Granville's appearance with a clever mask and wig, reiterates the operation of a fiendish device consisting of a balanced arm with a slowly-leaking water reservoir at one end and lethal gas pellets at the other. Should 39013 fail to refill the reservoir at regular intervals, the arm would drop, allowing the capsules to break upon the floor. The Daredevils, assigned to tunnel patrol, find a mysterious note thrust under their door warning them to be on guard. Gene notes that the red circle on the card, their own symbol, must mean that someone is on the lookout for their safety. Granville and 39013 listen to a newscast of the ribbon-cutting ceremonies of the tunnel connecting Santa Alicia Island with the mainland and 39013 describes how his men on an offshore oil rig have been drilling at an offset toward the tunnel roof. Gene, hearing a peculiar noise, decides to investigate further when Sheffield accuses him of sabotage. There is a skirmish in the Island-side office whereupon Tiny and Burt decoy the guards while Gene mounts a motorcycle. On the ocean oil well, Pete and Frank start the drill for the final puncturing thrust while Gene, hearing the pounding noise, stops inside the tunnel at an emergency phone. His call is unheeded and he starts his cycle as the tunnel ceiling ruptures. He races along the conduit just ahead of the roaring torrent as a car bearing Blanche, Landon and Dixon comes to a halt. Blanche lets out a terrified scream as the wall of seawater rushes toward them.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



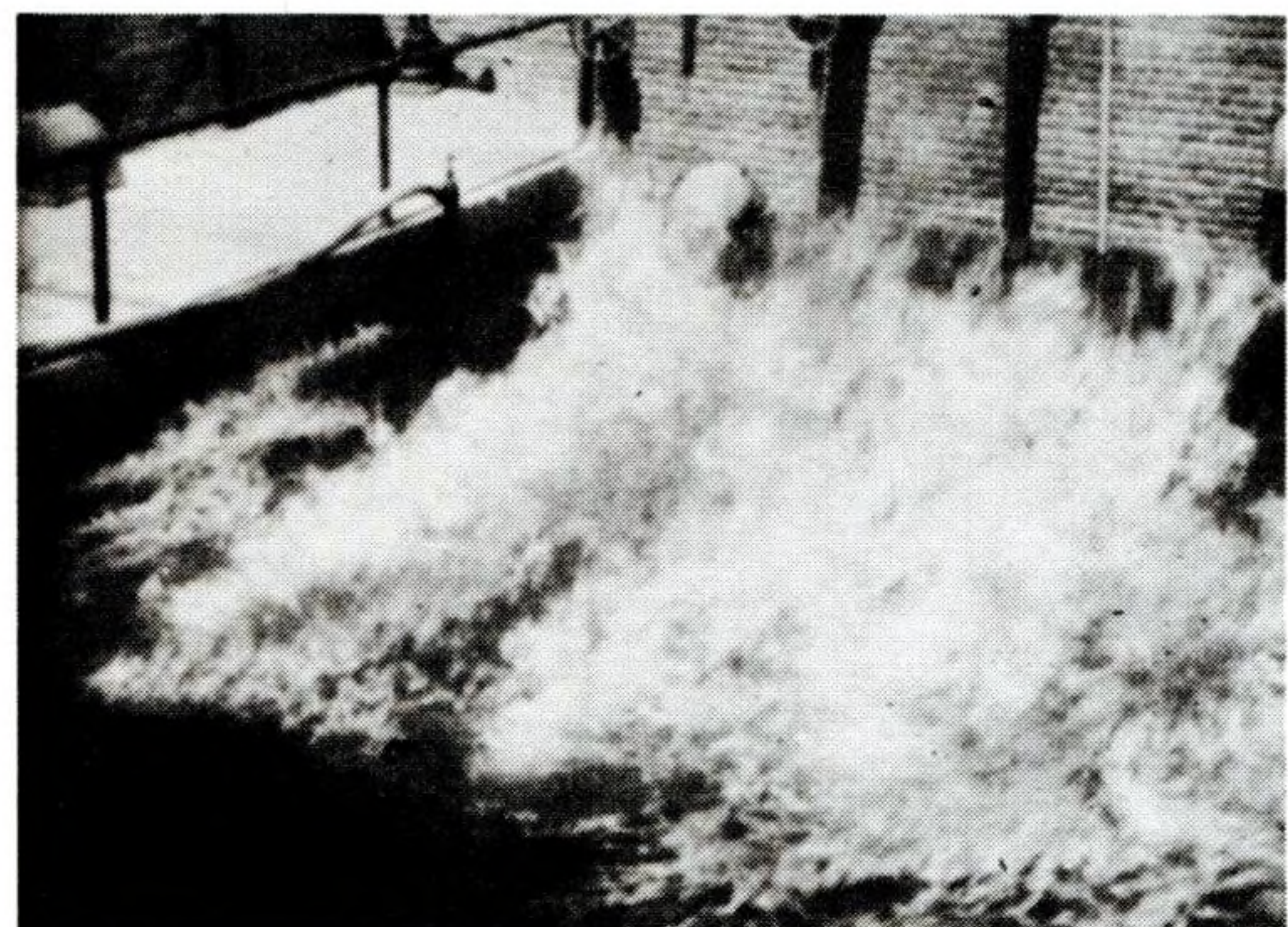


## THE ESCAPE



Gene roars up to the motorcade and frantically spins a valve wheel controlling two flood gates which slam shut, preventing inundation of the stunned group. Suspecting the tunnel was crushed by a drill bit from an offshore derrick, Gene rides to a nearby landing float where he signals Tiny and Burt in a launch to pick him up. The Daredevils race to the floating oil well and engage the heavies. Tiny is knocked unconscious into the rear cockpit of a motorboat which Pete and Frank use to return to the mainland, pursued by Gene and Burt. When the thugs attempt to get away in their car, Tiny lifts the rear wheels off the ground, then slugs one of the men while Burt subdues the other. 39013, masquerading as Granville, congratulates the trio for their fast action and appears pleased at Dixon's engineering report that the Channel Tunnel can be repaired within a week. Later, however, realizing the threat posed by the meddling stuntmen, 39013 directs Stanley, one of his front men, to arrange for their "accidental" demise. Completing preparations with Marco, Stanley enters Dixon's office claiming that valuable papers recently prepared for the War Department pertaining to the Granville Chemical Laboratories have been stolen from his car. Dixon has the Daredevils drive to the plant when it becomes clear this may be another plot contrived by 39013 to destroy the facility. Despite a Red Circle note found by Gene in the car warning them of a trap, the boys continue on and are greeted at the gate by Marco, who directs them to the superintendent's office. Walking between a row of chemical tanks, Gene sees a large oil drum being dropped from above and throws Tiny and Burt to the ground as the container lands directly in front of them, rupturing and spreading a film of oil over a water-settling pool. Tiny chases Marco toward the cooling vat and Burt punches another man from a tank railing while Gene pursues several heavies across a high, precarious catwalk connecting two oil towers. Caught between the shoulders by a thrown blowtorch which falls into and ignites the oil slick beneath, Gene rolls off the plank. He manages to gain a handhold on the catwalk until the relentless blows delivered by a heavy cause him to lose his grip and he plunges squarely into the raging inferno.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING





## THE ESCAPE



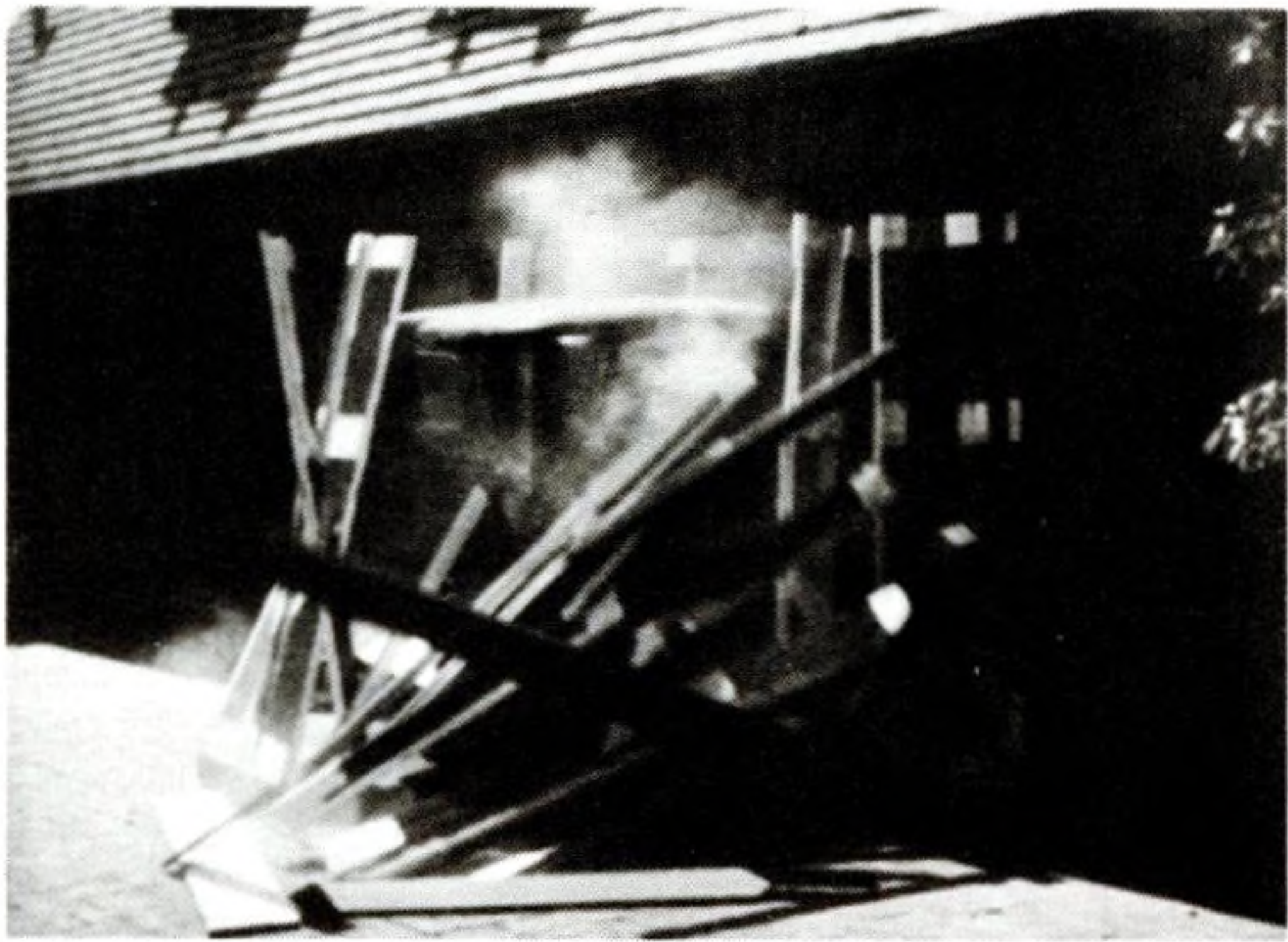
Tiny and Burt man a foamite hose to extinguish the oil fire while Gene maintains a grasp on an underwater pipe until Burt dives in with the all-clear signal. From a secret passageway, 39013 spies through a peephole into Dixon's office as Gene professes his suspicions about Stanley. Tuffie, the Daredevils' dog, picks up the intruder's scent and barks at the wall but Dixon passes it off as mice. Alarmed at almost being given away, 39013 directs Stanley to get rid of the animal and, a short time later, two heavies throw a net over Tuffie and spirit him away in the back of a grocery truck. Blanche pulls into the driveway at this moment and Gene, responding to the dog's howling, tells her to give chase. He makes a daring transfer from the roadster to the panel truck, then jerks the steering wheel. The vehicle veers to a stop and Gene exchanges several blows with the driver before both heavies escape into the woods. Despite Stanley's denial that he was implicated in the abduction, Tuffie's growls strengthen the Daredevils' belief that the man bears watching. Coming to the realization that Stanley has outlived his usefulness, 39013 has Doctor Malcolm see to the black sedan while he pays a visit to the bungler's room. Stanley is caught scrawling a Red Circle note proclaiming his innocence and, after listening patronizingly to the man's nervous explanation of using the bogus card to cast suspicion from himself, 39013 tells him to leave town in the sedan parked in the garage. Hastily packing his bags, Stanley enters the car and starts the engine as 39013, watching from a secret passage, throws a switch, closing the garage doors. Panic-stricken, Stanley watches an overhead pipe spew out clouds of deadly gas. He tries to stuff the nozzle with cloth waste material but is overcome and dies. Snowflake, a Granville servant, delivers a lunch tray to the Daredevils on which they find a Red Circle message informing them what they will find in the garage is not suicide. Shutting off the engine in the fume-filled garage, Tiny discovers footprints on the car hood and Gene climbs up to find the waste stuck in the sprinkler valve. Suddenly the outside door slides shut and gas again emanates from overhead. The boys try to break down the door but are quickly overcome by the noxious gas.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



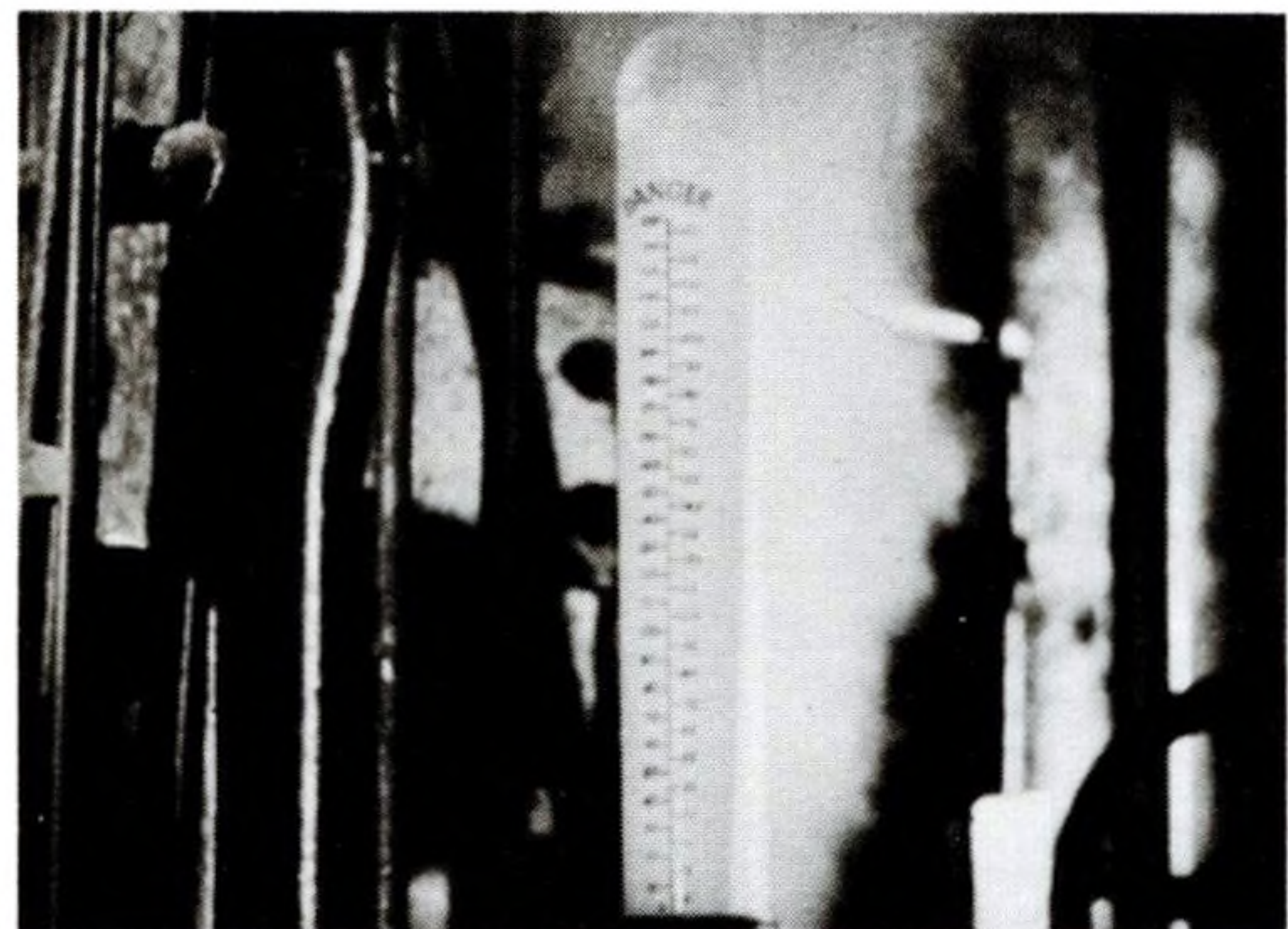


## THE ESCAPE



Gasping for air, Gene starts the sedan and backs it through the garage door as Dixon and Snowflake arrive to pull Tiny and Burt outdoors. Tracing the fake sprinkler pipe to an adjoining tool house, the group finds a lethal gas cylinder and a workman's shoe imprint bearing an identifiable heel mark. The Daredevils later receive another Red Circle note telling them to investigate the Tri-City Gas Plant and Dixon apprises 39013, posing as Granville, that he has sent them there. In turn, 39013 calls his contact at the plant, Davis, instructing him to dispose of the trio. The Daredevils are greeted at the facility by Peck and Al, the Tri-City chemist, who ventures that the gas tank was probably stolen from their storeroom. When Gene requests to see the most vulnerable section of the plant, Peck takes them on a tour of the boiler room and points out the safety devices which prevent the high pressure units from exploding. Satisfied with the precautions, the stuntmen turn to leave when Gene spots an oil-puddle imprint of the identical heel mark found at the garage. They follow the fresh trail while Davis orders Joe to cut the warning bell wires, Mac to close off the safety valve and Ted to break the thermostat contact. Gene, Tiny and Burt interrupt the sabotage campaign and the fight ends with Peck's return and Davis accusing the Daredevils of trying to wreck the boilers. Davis feigns a call to Granville and, when he reports that the threesome are unknown to the businessman, Peck orders them tied up in a storeroom. Facilely slipping out of his ropes, Burt proceeds to untie his friends and Tiny slugs Mac as the other heavies come running. Gene and Tiny hold the door closed until Burt slips the hinge pins out, then they step aside as the heavies plow into the unhung barrier and sprawl inside. Tiny and Burt lead separate groups of workmen on a chase around the facility while Gene slides down a high cable to the boiler room. Joe cranks the steam feed valve wide open and Ted is in the process of smashing an emergency relief unit when he spots Gene and hurls a wrench in his direction. Gene ducks the tool and subsequently knocks Ted to the catwalk as the boilers approach peak pressure. He pulls on an emergency lever but is blotted out in a blinding flash and cloud of steam.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



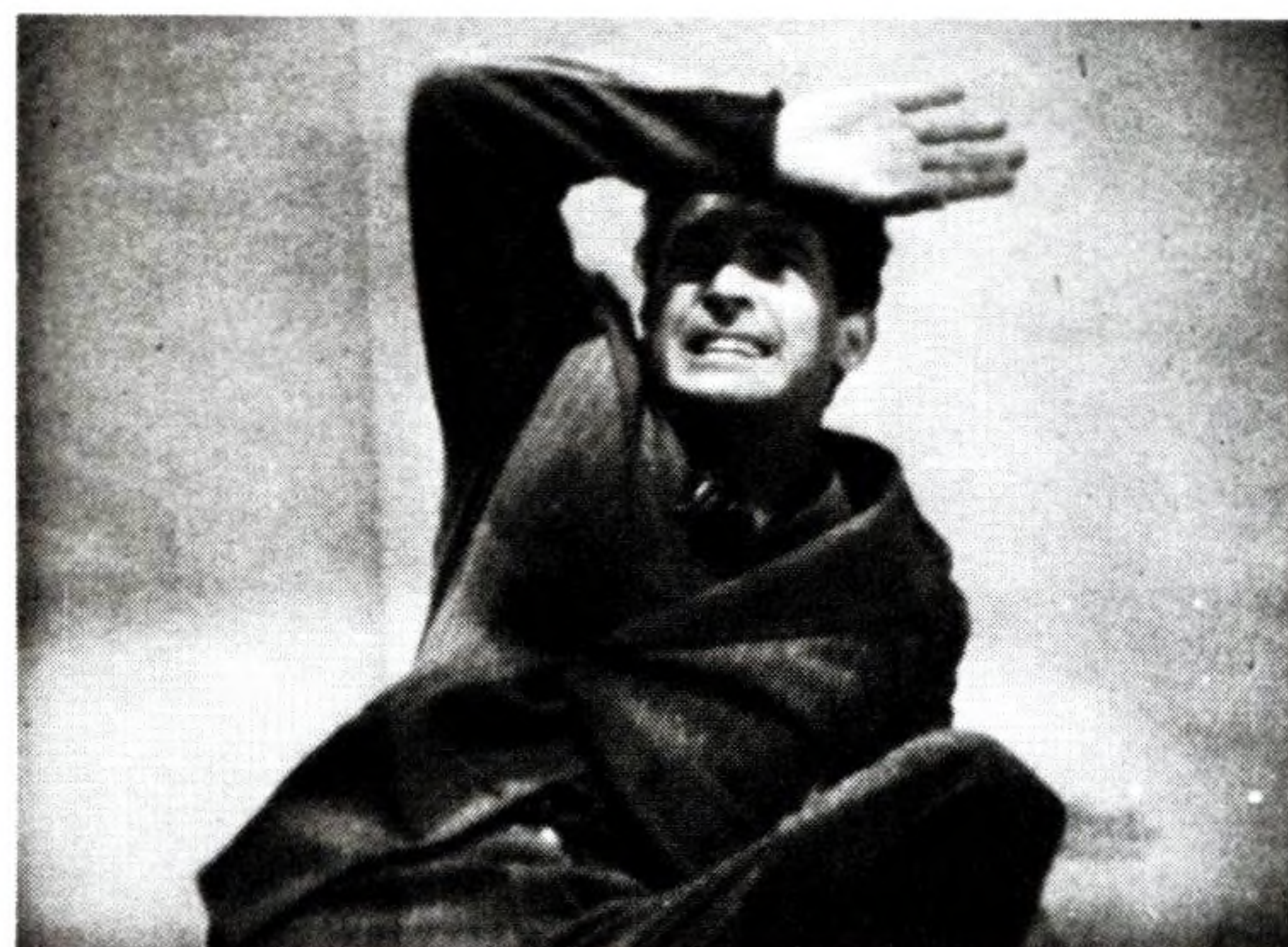
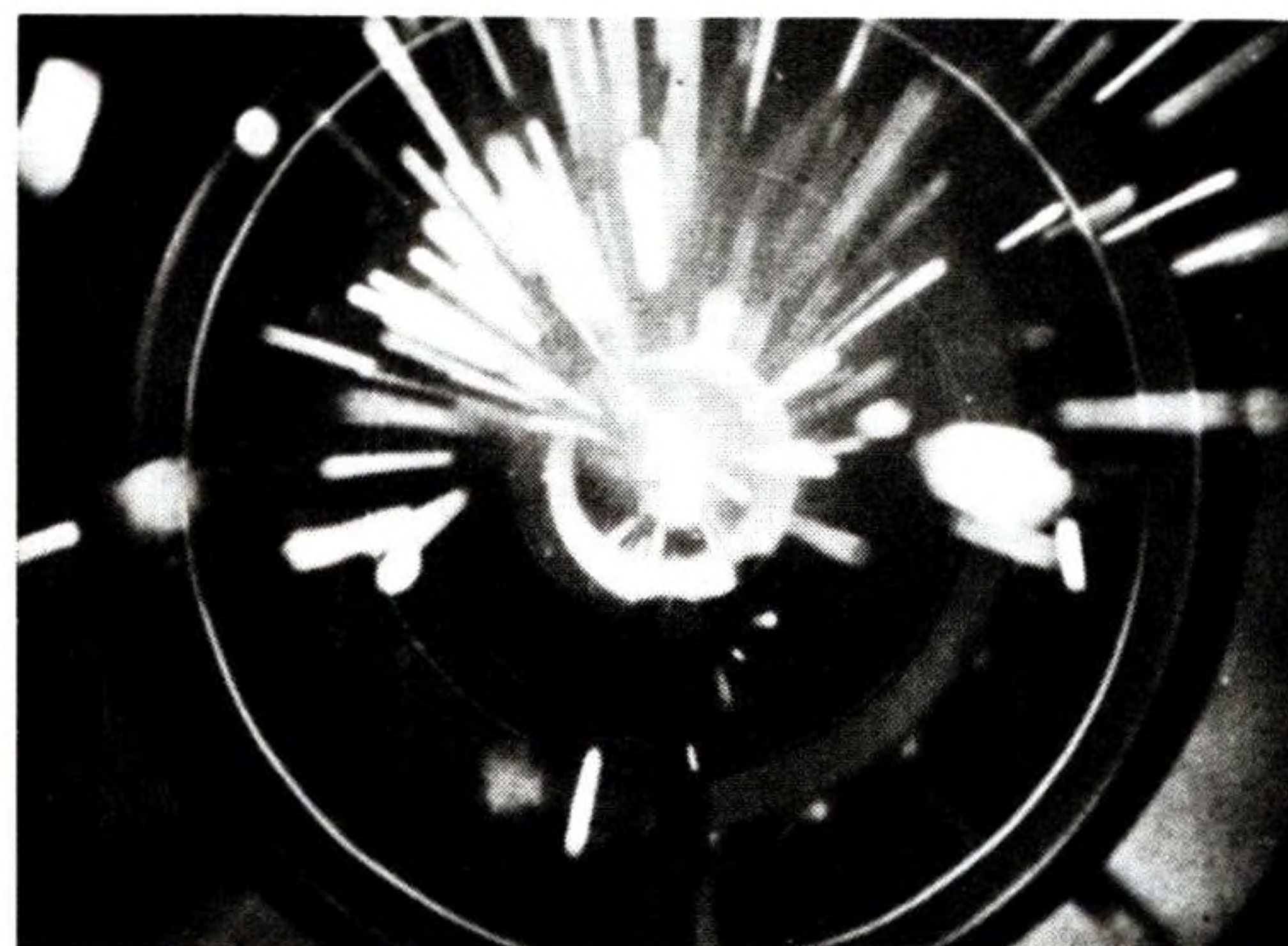
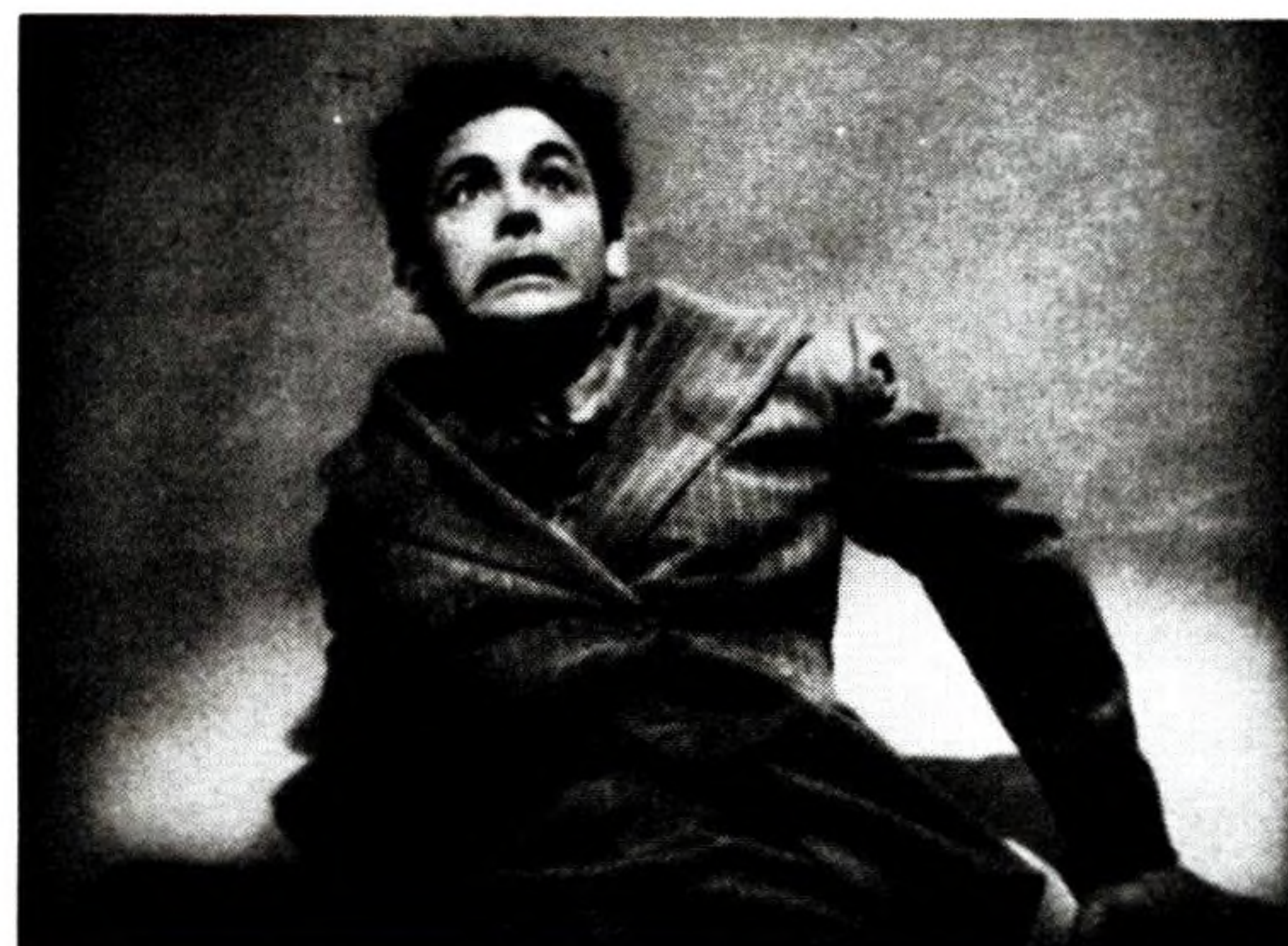


## THE ESCAPE



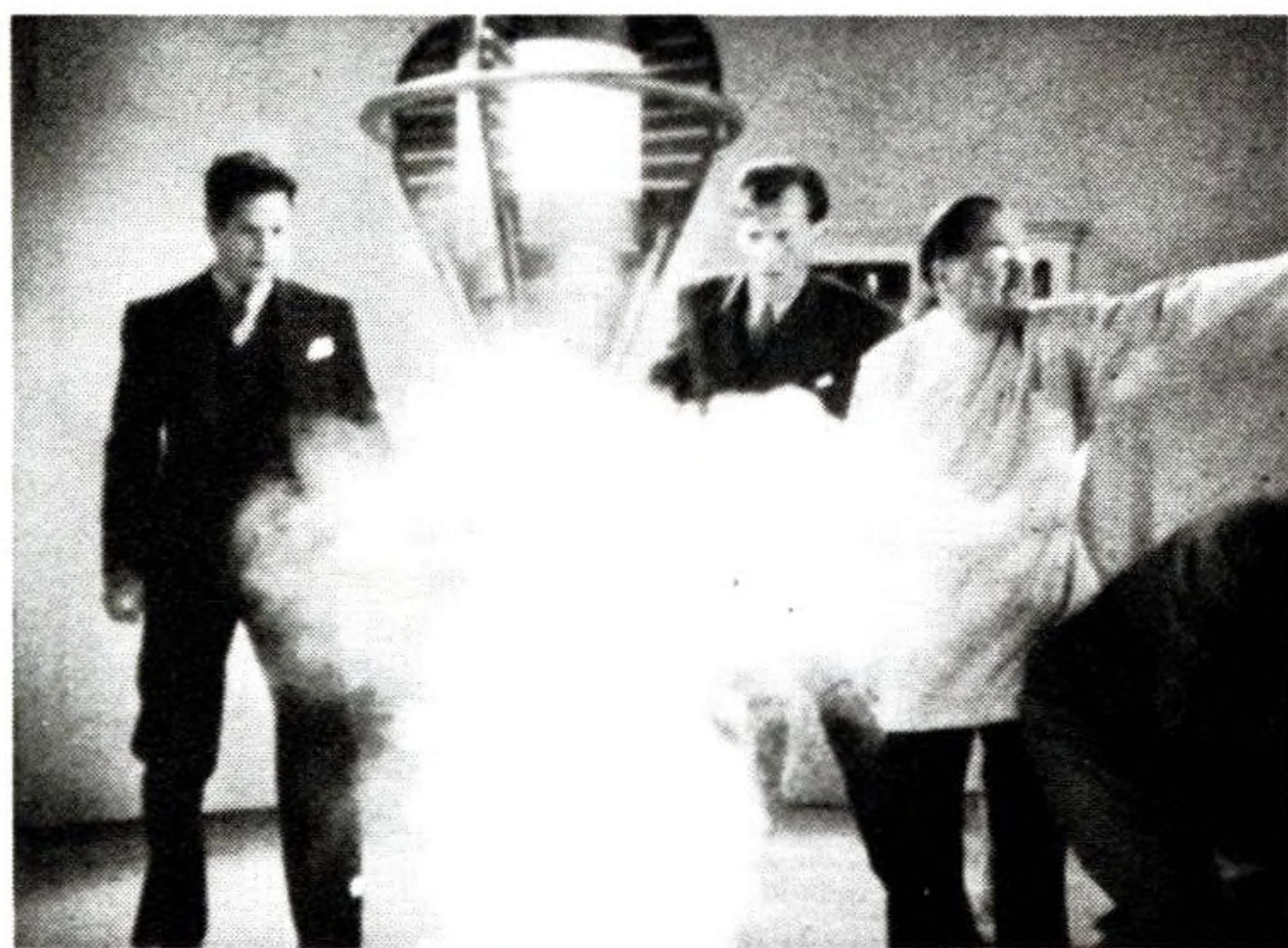
Gene slips through a window to safety as the scalding steam gushes from a floor grate. 39013, wearing his Granville disguise, receives Klein, supposedly a charity representative, in the audience room. Dixon listens to their exchange of dialogue unaware that Jeff is inserting a paper into Klein's hollow walking cane. Klein leaves the house, only to have Tuffie grab his cane which Gene apologetically tries to return. Grabbing for the stick, Klein inadvertently yanks off the head, revealing the hidden wiring diagram. A Red Circle note, shot down by an arrow from an upstairs window, informs the Daredevils that the plans are wanted that night at the Black Clinic. Gene keeps Klein's rendezvous there with Dan and Lutens while 39013 confronts Granville in the basement dungeon, explaining that his men have found a way to convert Doctor Black's Gamma Ray device, a curative invention financed by Granville, into a deadly Delta Ray machine. 39013 vows that District Attorney Graves, another man responsible for his incarceration, will be mysteriously killed the next day when he undergoes Gamma Ray treatment. Completing their rewiring job, Dan and Lutens provide a graphic demonstration of the Delta Ray to Gene and Burton, a crooked attendant. Since the machine would have to operate normally during a pre-use test, a hidden microphone picks up a high-frequency sound transmitted at will by the heavies and transforms the equipment circuitry from Gamma to Delta. Klein, meanwhile, released from Dixon's custody, informs 39013 of Gene's presence at the Clinic. Burton receives the warning call and Gene is locked in a cellar room as Dan and Lutens depart. Tiny and Burt, checking their friend's whereabouts, are also locked in the steel-doored chamber and work in shifts with Gene through the night sawing the holding bolts with a fingernail file. Observing Doctor Black's machine test from a hotel room opposite the Clinic, Dan places a phone call and, when Nurse Benson answers, he sends a loud squeal that effects the Delta Ray changeover. Tiny breaks down the cell door and Gene charges into the therapy room, shoving the litter on which Graves is lying from under the ray cone. In doing so, he slips and falls directly beneath the machine as it spews a death-dealing shower of sparks.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



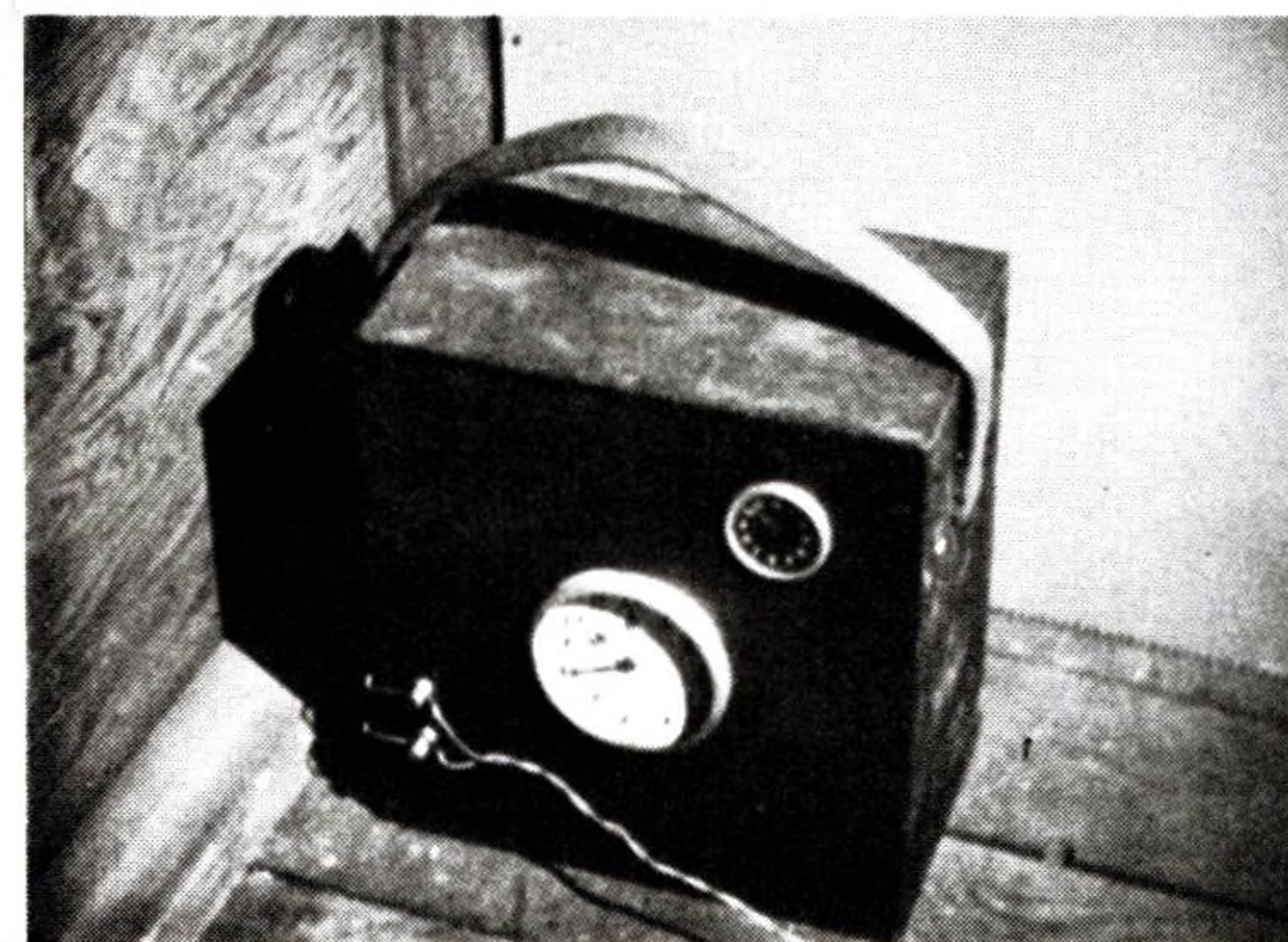


## THE ESCAPE



Gene rolls to one side as the destructive machine emits its full potential. George, Black's intern, shuts off the electric ray and Gene describes the conversion relay previously rigged. Since the miscreants would have to see into the therapy room for proper timing, the Daredevils investigate a room opposite in the adjacent building. Observing their quarry running down the fire escape toward a parked car, Gene, Tiny and Burt give chase but the sedan carrying Dan and Burton skids off a mountain road and crashes in a mass of flames. Dixon and the stuntmen issue their latest report to 39013, impersonating Granville, in the audience room when Tuffie enters carrying a Red Circle message in his mouth. The note explains that plans for changing the Gamma Ray were furnished by Professor Selden, a crackpot inventor headquartered at an old, deserted power plant. Once the boys leave to check out this latest tip, 39013 instructs Malcolm to dispatch a group of men to Selden's laboratory, then he phones the professor requesting him to imprison the Daredevils. Selden hot-wires a metal storeroom ladder after which he lures the Daredevils into the room, locking them inside. Burt prepares to make a fast exit by climbing the ladder when Gene stops him, declaring the escape route is too obvious. His premonition proves correct when an extended wire draws a crackling arc of high voltage and the trio takes the less expedient but safer way to freedom up a pile of packing cases to an open window. When Pete and three cronies find the storeroom vacant, they accuse Selden of pulling a double-cross. The eccentric scientist halts their menacing advances, threatening to close a knife switch on his desk which will activate a time bomb, set for a thirty-second detonation interval, planted somewhere in the office. One of the heavies gets off a shot from his pocket, seriously wounding Selden, as Gene, Tiny and Burt rush the gang. Tiny knocks one of the thugs backwards against the bomb switch, completing the circuit. Recovering their guns, 39013's men dash from the room as the Daredevils respond to Selden's plea and kick their way into a wall panel containing the booby trap. Gene grabs the box as a thundering explosion tears out a wall of the building.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



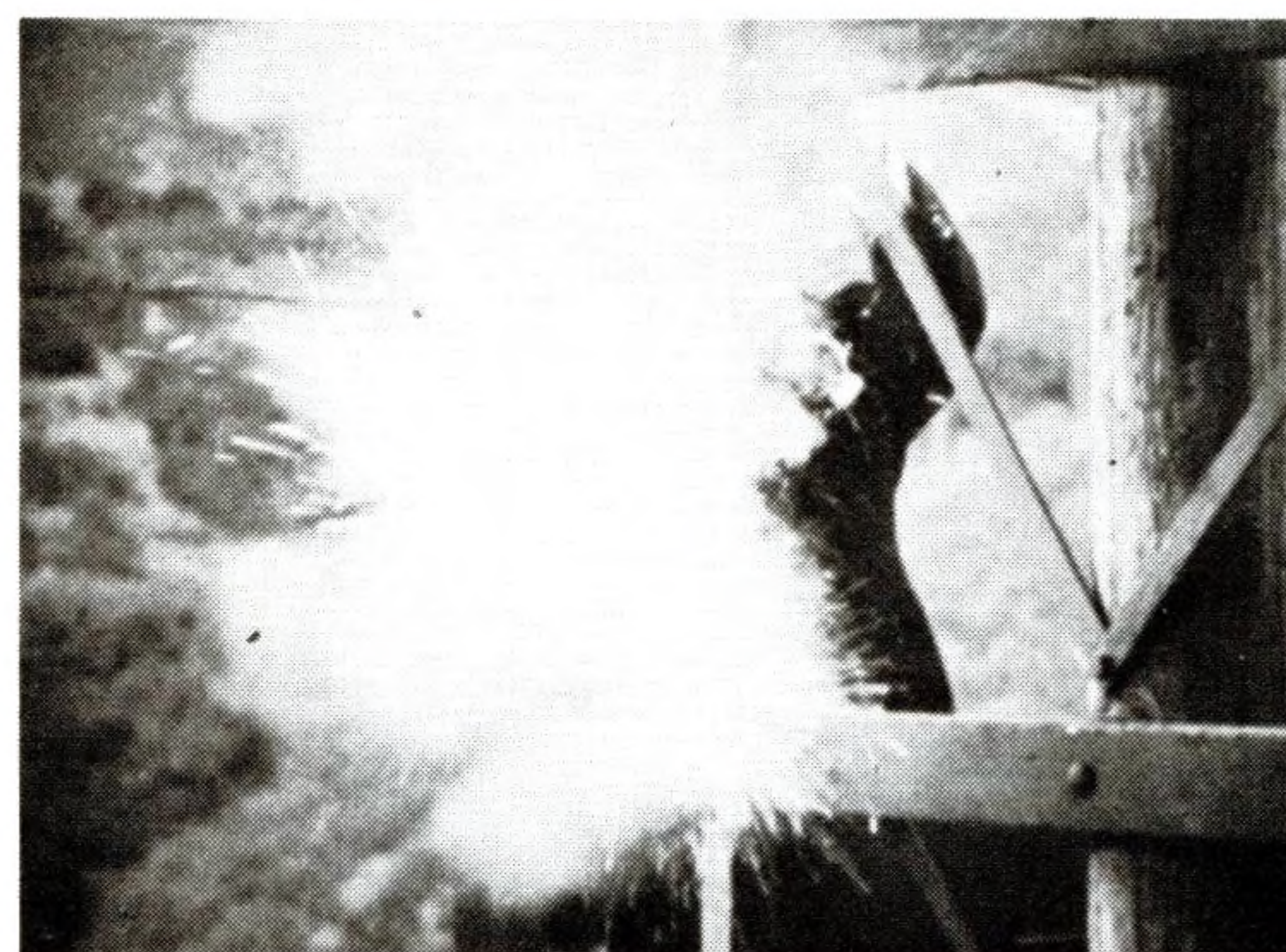


## THE ESCAPE



Gene chucks the bomb through a window before it discharges. 39013, relieved that Selden died before he could talk, is nonetheless fed up with his many defeats caused by the Red Circle notes. Positive that the Red Circle is a Granville household member, he decides to eliminate each of them, one at a time, beginning with Blanche and takes great delight in tormenting the imprisoned Granville with his nefarious plan. Workers at the Granville Radium Mine have hit a water strata and, despite the promise of more pumps to keep the shaft dry, morale among the miners is low because of their precarious position should there be a pump or elevator breakdown. Blanche, sent by her imposter grandfather to the mine along with the Daredevils to bolster confidence, is lowered down the shaft. When the elevator cage reaches bottom, Rex signals Sloan who, in turn, contacts Ward and Steve by car radio. At a desolate mountain location, Steve shoots out a high tension power line supplying the mining operation. Bob reports the failure to his superintendent and, when the latter also finds the telephone inoperative, the Daredevils drive to the powerhouse while, underground, water is rising on Blanche, Sam and four miners. Tiny and Burt tend the substation with Tom while Gene takes Bill and Ed to the downed line. Ward has blown up a section of road to stop any repair attempts but Gene, undeterred, drives the station wagon over rough ground to the cable break. Though Ward argues their sabotage work is complete, Sloan commandeers the power house with his men and closes the main switches. Gene and Bill are startled when Ed, preparing to splice the line, is suddenly jolted senseless by a burst of electricity. Tiny, Burt and Tom turn the tables, however, and restore order as Gene, noting the current has again been shut off, climbs the high tension pole. When Sloan has not returned in a reasonable length of time, Ward stages yet another takeover raid of the power station, shooting a gun from Burt's hand and reclaiming control of the building with his men. Sloan points to the switchboard lever which will apply current to the main line and prevent continuance of the repairs now in progress. Gene is holding the broken wire as power is restored and he falls from the high pole, apparently electrocuted.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



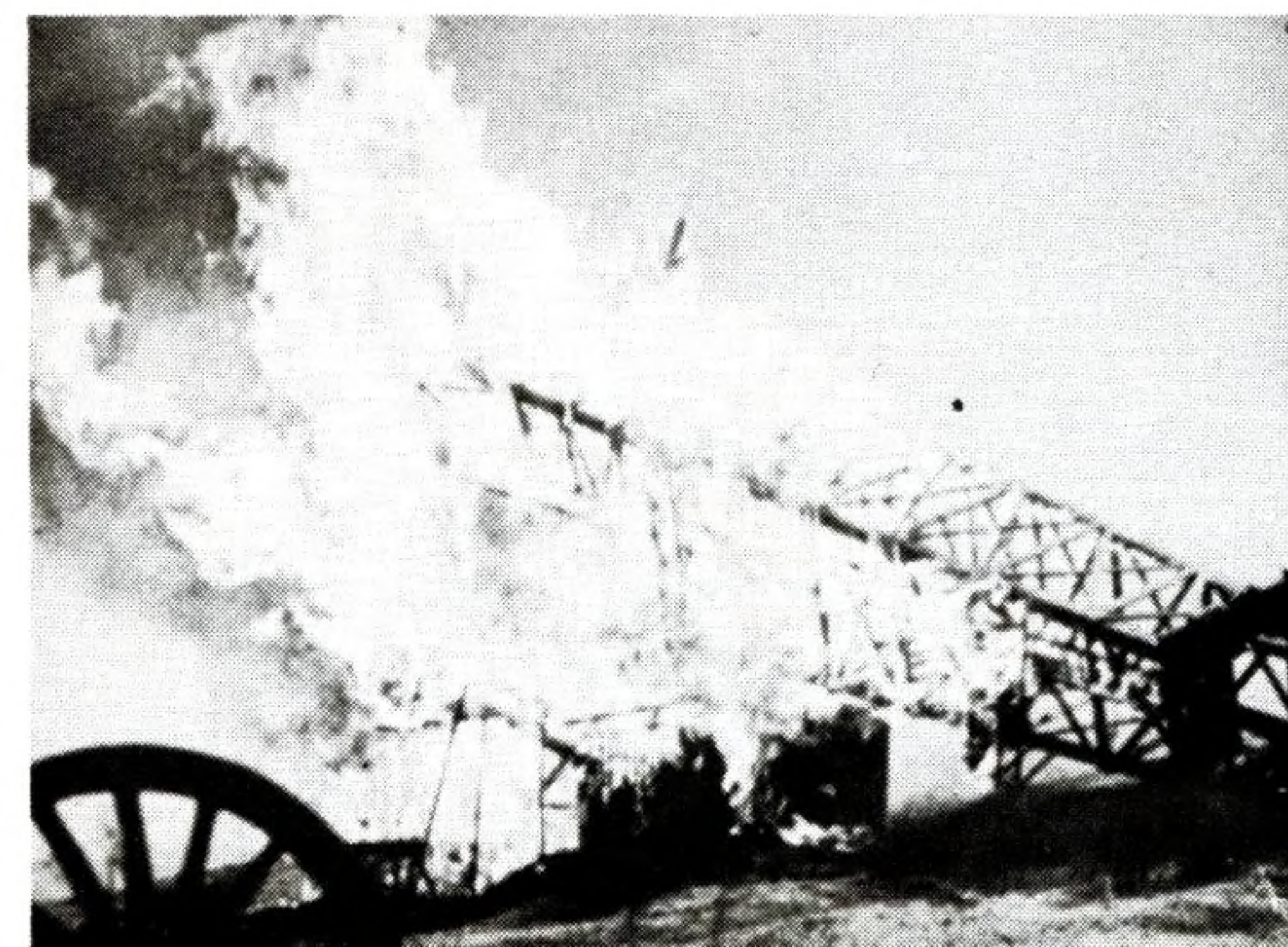
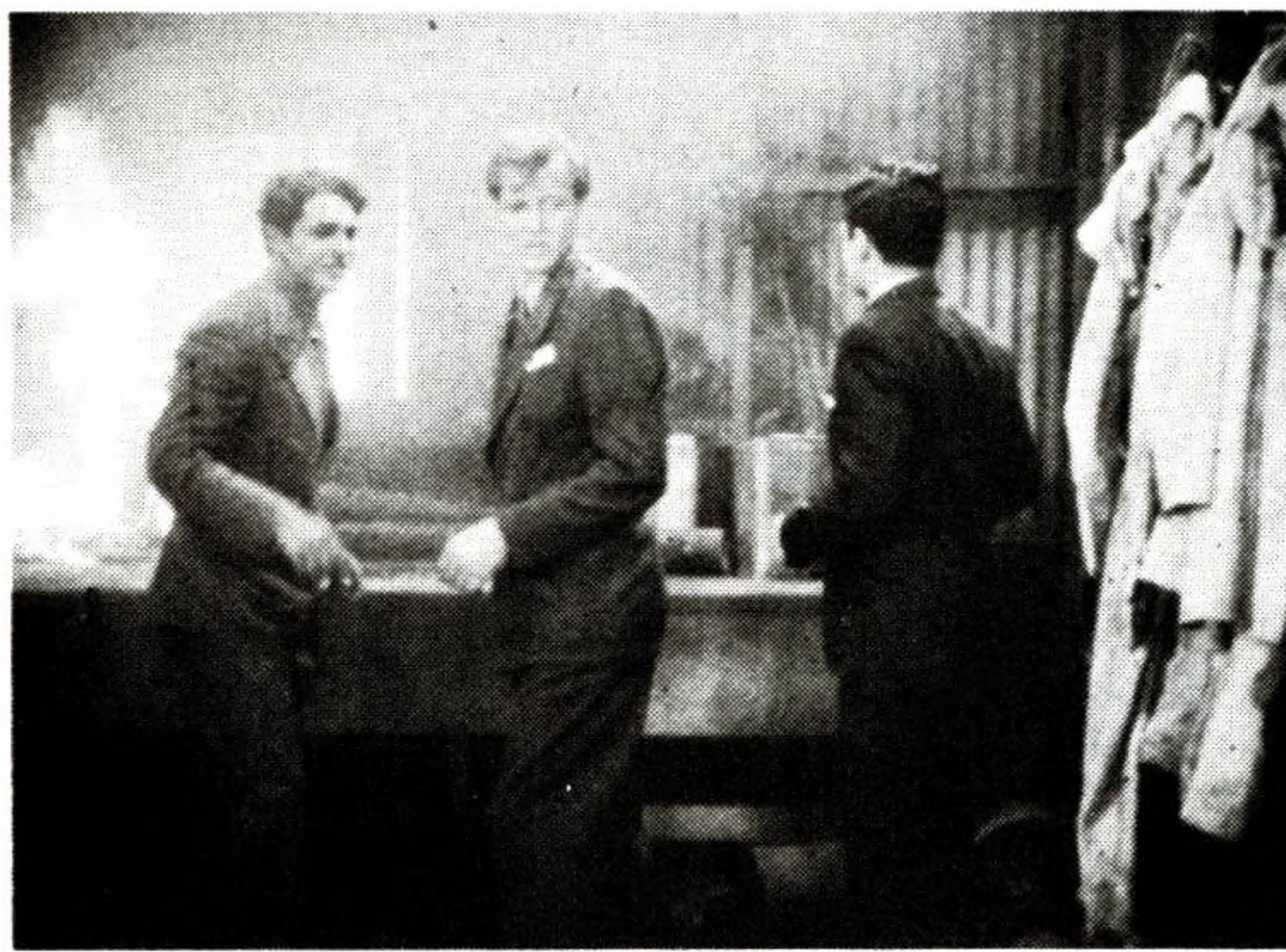


## THE ESCAPE



Gene has finished the connection when the abrupt flash startles him and he drops onto the station wagon, which breaks his fall. He drives Bill and Ed back to the powerhouse, unties Tiny and Burt and they return to the mine where Blanche is extricated from the watery shaft. After 39013 unveils his latest plot to ruin Granville's Kettle Drum Valley natural gas franchise by blowing up the pipeline in Verdugo Pass, Granville feverishly pricks at a newspaper page with a pin. Later, 39013 gloats to his prisoner that Dixon is unwittingly sending the Daredevils on a wild goose chase, then he leaves carrying an empty dinner tray on which Granville has placed the significant paper. Jeff leaves the tray on a kitchen table and Snowflake, busily preparing a fast lunch for the stuntmen, wraps their sandwiches in the newsprint. While his back is turned, a gloved hand inscribes a red circle on the package. On their way to Summerdale, Tiny discovers the enigmatic signature and Gene telephones Dixon describing the warning of impending pipeline destruction. 39013 overhears the conversation and advises Zeke to prepare for the trio. A decoy attempt is made with a dummy dynamite package but Burt trips over the real explosive wires buried under the gas pipe. Before the magneto box plunger can be depressed, Gene cuts one of the wires, then shoots out a motorcycle tire and Kid, trying to escape on the machine, is thrown off. Falling for a ruse, Kid admits that Zeke and his men are on their way to fire the gassers at the nearby Kettle Drum Valley oil wells. Entering the derrick field, Tiny overcomes Derrick Heavy 1 and the Daredevils jump Zeke and Derrick Heavies 2 and 3 as they leave a storage room after igniting a bomb fuse. The battle moves back inside the shed and fists fly as the bomb explodes, spreading fire to several oil drums. Derrick Heavy 1, having come around, appears in the smoking structure brandishing a pistol, allowing Zeke and the others to lock the door behind them as they leave. Attempting to find a way out of the white heat, Gene smashes the only window and Tiny springs the door with a thrown bucket, but both escape routes are cut off by ravishing walls of flame. Suddenly, an adjacent fire-weakened derrick collapses directly on the blazing storage building.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING





## THE ESCAPE



Slipping into asbestos fire-fighting suits, Gene and his companions leave the shed before it is flattened by the derrick. They respond to a shout from the control room and untie the foreman, who closes the shut-off valve lest an explosion decimate the entire field. Zeke spies through a window as Burt calls Peck at the downtown facility to continue city gas service by starting the furnaces. When Peck replies that his fuel tanks have been drained, allowing only minimal furnace operation time, the foreman indicates an oil truck which can be loaded and driven to town. Gene sees to the filling while Tiny and Burt, traveling ahead by car, come upon Zeke and Derrick Heavies 1 and 2 busily chopping apart the wooden supports of a culvert bridge. The thugs are beaten down, allowing Tiny and Burt just enough time to brace a post under the sagging span as Gene rumbles across in the emergency crude oil truck. Continuing his Granville deception, 39013, told that the gas plant is continuing to operate with oil supplies driven in from all around the country, instructs Marco by phone to cause irreparable furnace damage by pumping a truckload of gasoline into them. When Doctor Malcolm comments that no previous mention had been made of this plan, 39013 explains it is a phony scheme to provide the Red Circle, whom he is certain taps the phone line, with erroneous information. Since Dixon has called an immediate meeting of the entire household, 39013 is certain the Red Circle will give himself away as the only absent member of the assemblage when the latest note is delivered. Dixon conducts his session with everyone present as the pantry call board rings. Investigation reveals a new message pinned to the wall and an ingenious time-delay contraption using a candle, string and mousetrap to trigger the pantry bell. Reading of the gasoline substitution, Dixon hurriedly dispatches the Daredevils to the Tri-City Gas Plant where their check of all arriving shipments uncovers nothing unusual. Gene suddenly yells a warning to Tiny and Burt and they narrowly escape injury as a crane-load of pipes is dropped toward them, then the stuntmen leap into retaliatory action. Gene chases Blake up the side of a high tank when the killer shoves on the ladder, sending it hurtling backward out into space.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



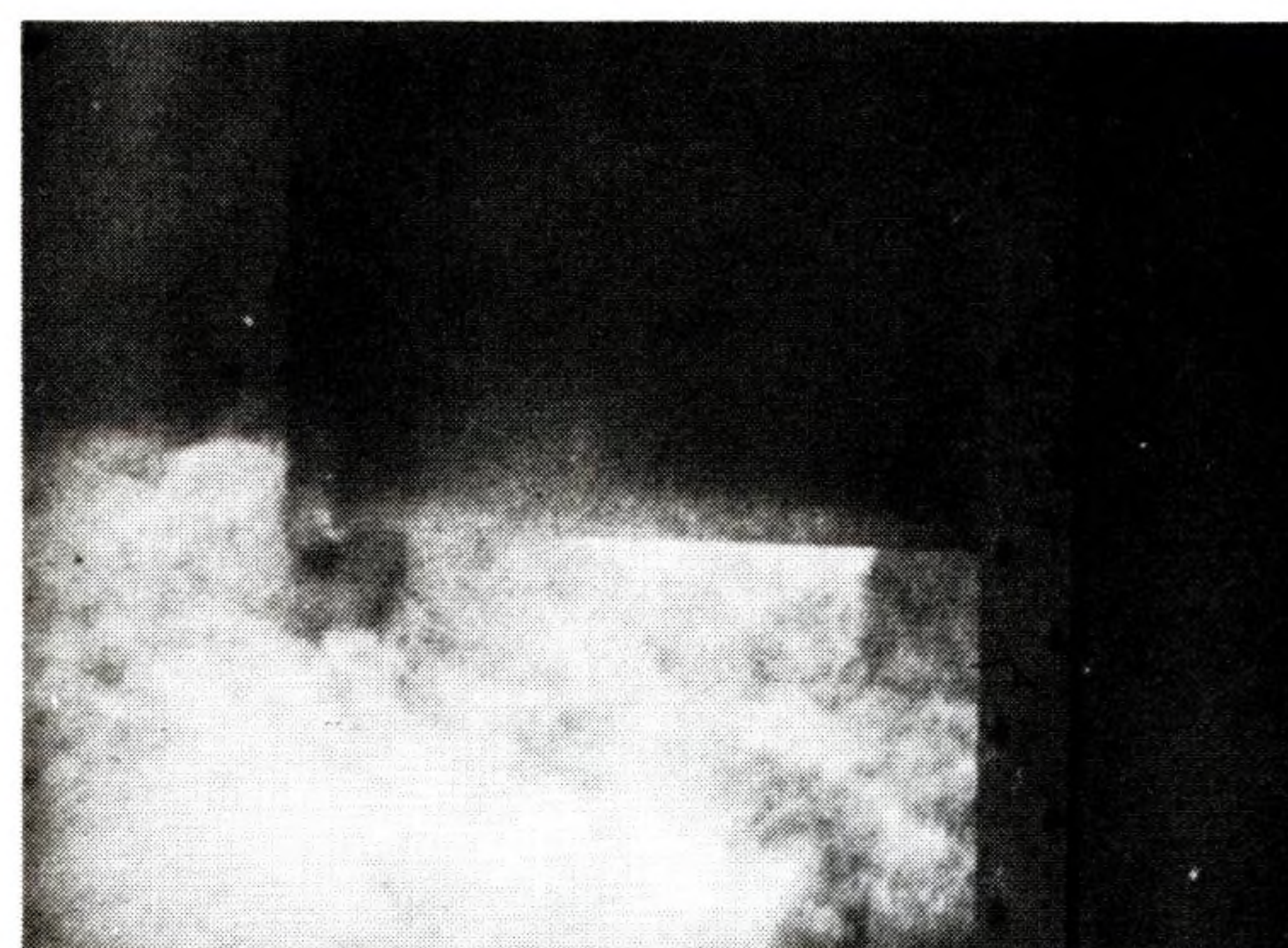
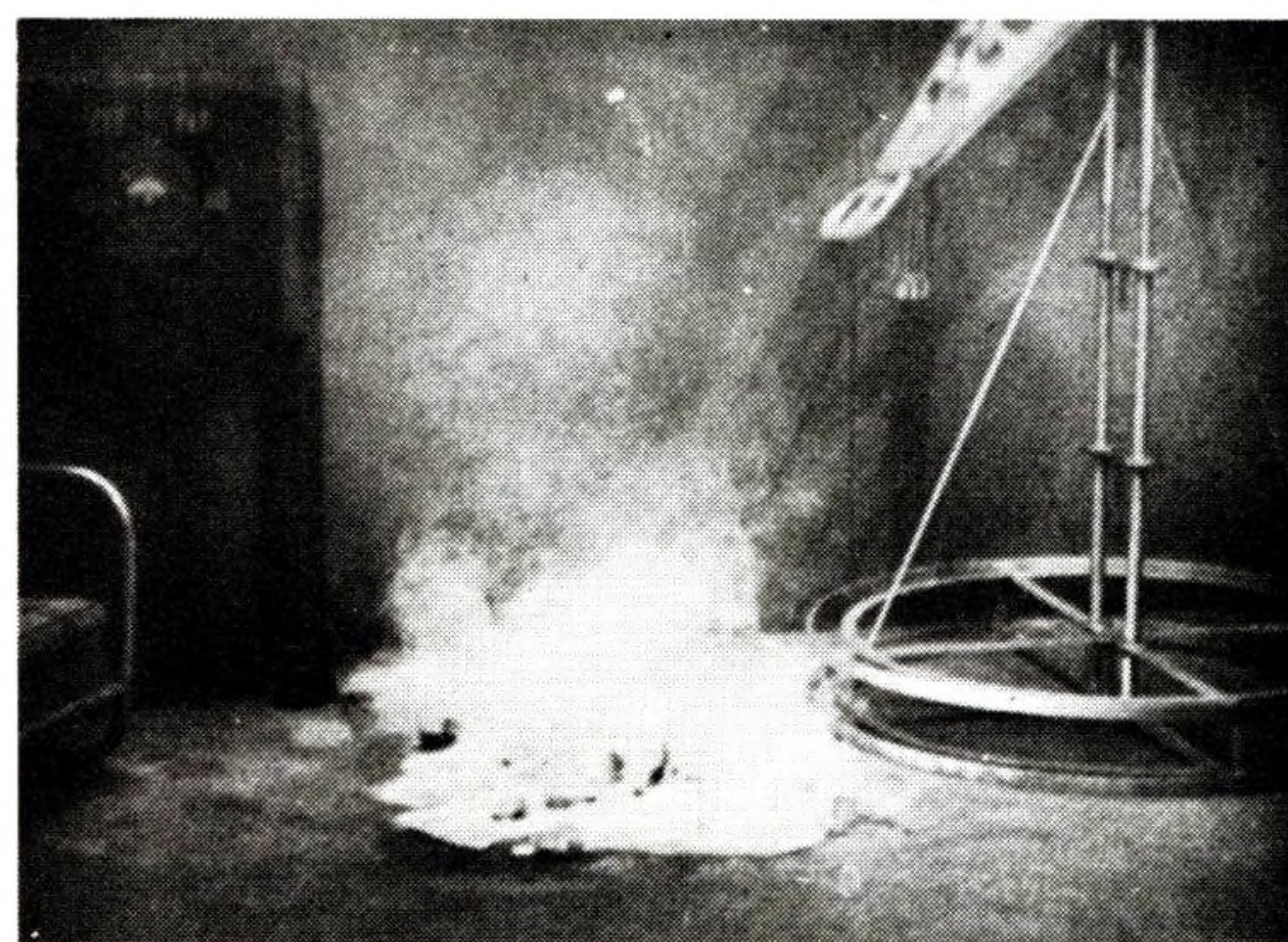


## THE ESCAPE



The ladder drops a short distance and wedges in a platform grating. Gene scrambles down to a pipeline and slides along it toward Blake, whom he apprehends. Dixon again congratulates the Daredevils for their quick action but ventures they are no closer to 39013 when Gene surmises that the pin-pricked newspaper tip admonishing them of the gas well sabotage must have been made on the premises. The stuntmen scour the house for back issues, hoping to uncover a further clue, while Dixon notifies "Granville", who dismisses the idea as preposterous. Now aware of his security leak, 39013 orders Malcolm and Jeff to collect any old newspapers while he attends to Granville. 39013, admitting he is now in jeopardy of being uncovered, bids Granville a sinister farewell and adjusts the infernal balancing arm reservoir so it will drain completely away within thirty minutes, dropping and breaking the lethal gas vials. Meanwhile, a Red Circle note informs the Daredevils that papers are being stolen from the garage and they secure those remaining, hauling their find onto a desk top in the library. Blanche heads upstairs to obtain more material when Tuffie brings Gene another newspaper bearing the punctured message that the acknowledged Granville is an imposter while the real one is being held prisoner in the basement. Gene stops Burt from making a rash entry into the only unsearched area of the house, Granville's sterilized room, and calls Chief Landon to send a squad of policemen, fearing Dixon may be untrustworthy. Having tapped the phone line, 39013, in his Granville guise, convinces Dixon that the Daredevils are working for 39013, and the boys, summoned to the audience room, find themselves under arrest. Burt starts a fight but the retaliation is short-lived when Jeff and Malcolm use guns to restore order. Blanche, returning to the library, is led to the audience room by Tuffie who leaps on 39013, tearing off his mask and wig. The criminal escapes with Jeff and Malcolm through a secret passage while Gene, finding the basement panel, enters as the gas capsules burst on the floor. Burt, arriving with Tiny and Blanche, picks the cell door lock, freeing Granville. But 39013 presses a button and the vertical steel door slams shut, trapping the choking group in the gas-filled dungeon.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING





## THE ESCAPE



Tiny jams a chair under the closing door and Gene and Burt aid him in holding it open while Blanche helps her grandfather upstairs. A doctor pronounces Granville free of any ill effects from the gas as Landon awaits the arrival of more men to undertake a thorough search of the house. 39013, Malcolm and Jeff tarry in the secret passageway maze while Granville explains that Malcolm and Stanley were bribed with large sums of his fortune to fabricate the mysterious stroke and sterilized room so Crowel could convincingly initiate his fiendish masquerade. Gene then offers a summation of the Daredevils' involvement in tracking down the elusive, heinous, revenge-seeking 39013.

### REVIEW

1. At the Granville Amusement Pier, Gene climbs the high diving ladder and lights a flare that times Burt's segment of the act. Burt worms out of a strait jacket while being hoisted to the diving platform and once he reaches the top, Gene drops the burning flare into a water tank below, unaware that it has been filled with gasoline. The fuel explodes and Sammy is killed in the ensuing conflagration.
2. The Daredevils, assigned to the Channel Tunnel patrol by Dixon, are forced to fight Sheffield and several guards before Gene takes a motorcycle into the shell to prove something is amiss. The ceiling collapses, but Gene outraces the deluge, saving the inaugural party by closing the flood gates.

At this point, to everyone's astonishment, Blanche reveals that she is the Red Circle and elucidates on the origin. Having recognized 39013's impersonation from the beginning and foolishly blurting out her discovery, Blanche was threatened with the automatic death of her grandfather should she talk. Blindfolded and driven around for an hour before being shown the real Granville, Blanche had assumed until today that he was being held prisoner elsewhere. Just as the girl explains that she became the Red Circle to provide secret information and starts to tell about a secret passage she found, the room is plunged into total darkness amidst a blood-curdling scream.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



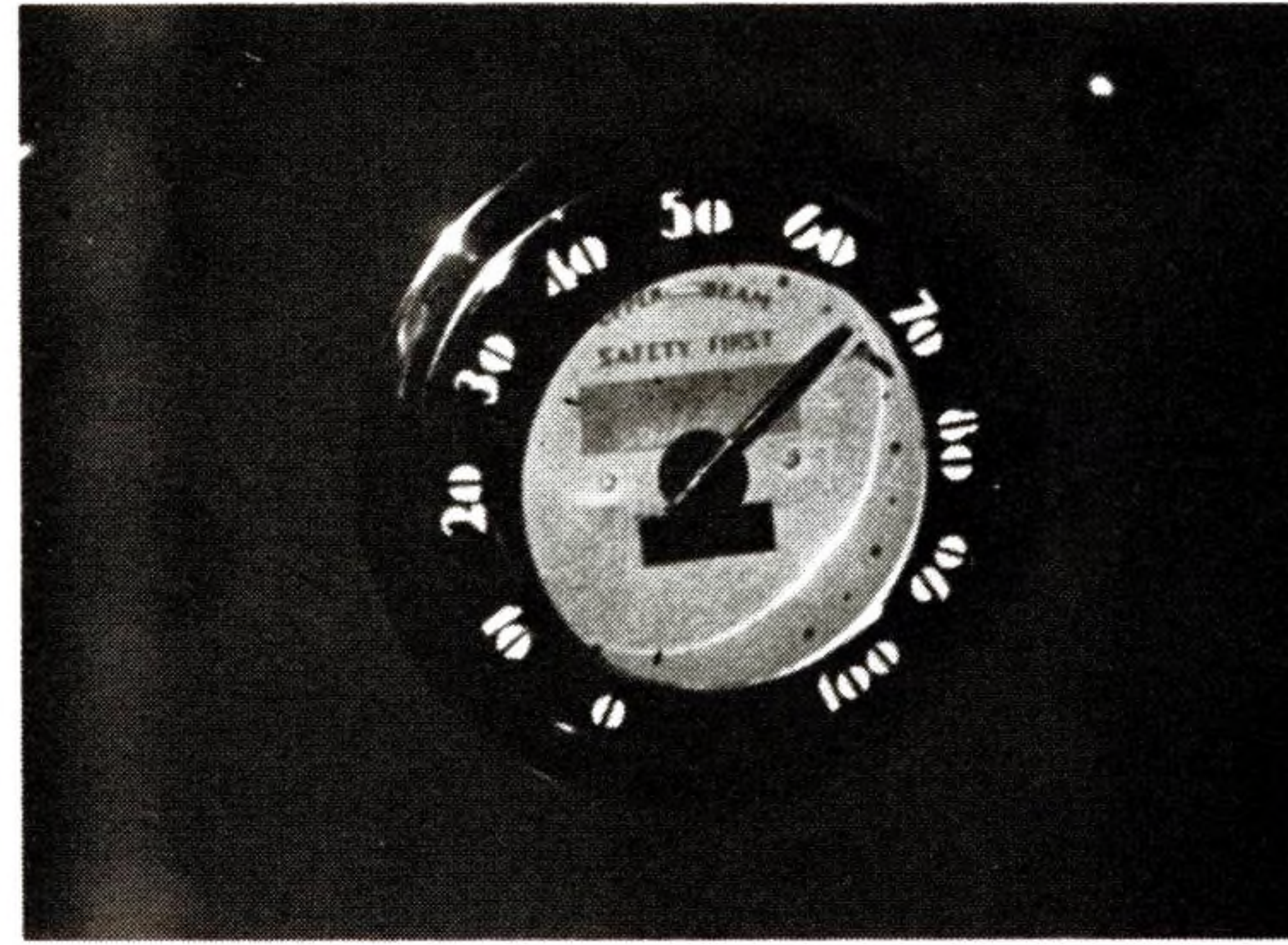


## THE ESCAPE



Confusion reigns in the pitch-black library and Blanche is carried through a secret panel before lights are restored. The Daredevils prepare to check outdoors when Dixon answers a call from 39013, who demands that all detectives surrounding the house be brought inside. He further declares if anyone leaves the room or attempts communication with the outside, Blanche will die instantly. Landon, believing the call is a bluff, is ready to take action but Granville and Gene convince him that Crowel will indeed make good his threat if provoked. With Malcolm sent to clean out the safe, 39013 instructs Jeff to connect a bomb to the speedometer of Blanche's roadster so it will explode when a speed of seventy miles per hour is reached. Returning with the money satchel, Malcolm is told to have Jeff start the sedan for a getaway as 39013 makes a final peephole check of the library. Tiny, noticing Tuffie sniffing the criminal's scent around the baseboard, wraps a handkerchief around his knuckles and jabs his fist into the secret panel. Startled, 39013 bolts for the garage, leaving Blanche bound and gagged in a chair. Gene and Burt hop from a window and pursue the sedan using Landon's car while Blanche is freed and joins the chase with Tiny and Landon in her wired roadster. Their car skids off the road, so 39013, Malcolm and Jeff abandon their vehicle and they sprint into a wooded grove with Gene and Burt close behind. The five men eventually clash and, as Tiny, Blanche and Landon arrive, 39013 and Malcolm are knocked out. After a brief chase through the dense brush, Jeff surrenders himself while Malcolm, unable to revive 39013, carries him back to the road where he commandeers Blanche's automobile. The girl anxiously reports this action to the Daredevils and they again take up pursuit. Malcolm presses down on the accelerator as 39013 stirs in the rumble seat and becomes acutely aware of their danger. His groggy warning shout goes unheeded as the speedometer indicator crosses seventy and the car is blown all over the landscape. Granville thanks the Daredevils for their bravery and, as Burt proudly announces they have been signed by the East-West Circus, a secret panel opens revealing Snowflake, who demonstrates his push button prowess by promptly slamming the panel on his neck.

## THE MOMENTOUS FINALE







WHO IS THE MYSTERIOUS FRIEND  
THAT SENDS THE CRYPTIC  
RED CIRCLE NOTES?

your Lives Are <sup>in</sup>  
DANGER At the Tunnel  
Be ON YOUR GUARD!



## DAREDEVILS OF THE RED CIRCLE



### CHAPTER ONE THE MONSTROUS PLOT

